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THE NEWSPAPER FOR CHATHAM, GILLINGHAM, ROCHESTER, STROOD, RAINHAM & DISTRICT



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the right choice

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Round-up of all
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Kingsnorth action showed protestors' cause

NOW IT'S THEIR DAY IN COURT

AN ECO-activist decided to shut down Kingsnorth power station after being "patronised" by Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and Bill Clinton, a court heard yesterday.

Ben Stewart, 34, from Lyminge, near Folkestone, is one of six campaigners pleading not guilty to damaging the chimney at the Hoo peninsula plant during a Greenpeace

■ BY IAN READ

protest in October, last year.

Four men and a woman camped on top of the smokestack after a nine-hour climb up 1,000 steps. They then abseiled down its side to write 'Gordon' on it. Tim Hewke, 48, from Ulcombe, near Maidstone, is accused of co-ordinating the protest from the ground.

On the second day of their trial, Maidstone Crown Court heard how Stewart had tackled Tony Blair,

Gordon Brown and Bill Clinton face-to-face about climate change but felt patronised by their answers.

He said: "I got the impression Gordon Brown didn't seem bothered, so I decided to take part in more direct action."

Stewart, who is Greenpeace's communications director, said the group planned to paint 'Gordon Bin It' on the side of the chimney because they knew it would attract media attention. But the owner E.ON obtained a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Picture: KNP

KELLY FIGHTS OFF ZOMBIE INVASION

Glamour girl Kelly Brook is to join ITV's television industry satire Moving Wallpaper as the star of a new spoof zombie invasion drama. The show will see the 28-year-old, who lives at Grafty Green, near Maidstone, play an airline passenger whose plane is attacked by zombies.

She is pictured leaving her parents' home in Rochester on her way to filming last weekend. The screen beauty recently returned from the French Riviera after calling time on her relationship with Hollywood hunk Billy Zane.

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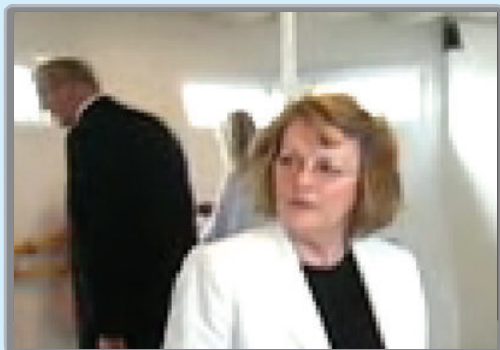
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TOP TV CLIPS



Full screen

1 People from all over the world visit Dover to try to swim to France. See the community channel @ yourkenttv.co.uk



Full screen

2 Actress Brenda Blethyn visits Ramsgate's Granville Theatre. See the leisure channel @ yourkenttv.co.uk



Full screen

3 Gills boss Mark Stimson talks about the difficulty of transfer windows. See the sport channel @ yourkenttv.co.uk

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ALL CHANGE: The pupils of Gads Hill will be leaving Dickens' mansion for a purpose-built home

Gads Hill Place set for return to its Victorian splendour

EXCLUSIVE

BY SIMON ROBINSON

PLANS to transform Charles Dickens' former home into a museum and heritage centre have been given the green light by planning chiefs.

The multi-million pound proposals will return Gad's Hill Place in Higham to its Victorian splendour, as it was when Dickens penned classic novels such as *Great Expectations* and *A Tale of Two Cities*.

Gad's Hill School, which has occupied the Grade-1 listed mansion near Rochester since the 1920s, will move into a purpose-built £7 million school to be built on the same site.

Headmaster David Craggs said the move had to be made as the school's presence in the building was gradually stripping Dickens' home of its history. He said: "The 370 children who are here are slowly but surely destroying the fabric of the same building, not deliberately, but just through wear and tear. The sooner we get them into purpose-built school accommodation, the better."

The heritage centre is due to open in 2012 to coincide with the Olympics and the 200th anniversary of

Dickens' birth, giving the school's next few years of pupils the chance to learn in illustrious surroundings.

Dickens' spare bedroom is a classroom, while his study is used as the headmaster's office.

Speaking at the start of the school's new academic year, Mr Craggs said: "I'm delighted to welcome our new students, who will soon benefit from moving into our new and purpose-built teaching accommodation."

"In the meantime they can still soak up the atmosphere of Dickens' former home. There are very few children who are lucky enough to be taught English in what was Charles Dickens' bedroom."

Charles Dickens lived at Gad's Hill Place from 1856 until his death 14 years later in what is now the school dining room. At the time he was working on his final novel, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*.

Dickens was born in Portsmouth on February 7, 1812, the second of eight children to navy clerk John Dickens and his wife Elizabeth.

The family moved to Ordnance Street in Chatham when Charles was just five, then on to London five years later.

Having written such well-received novels as *Bleak House* and *David Copperfield*, Dickens was able to buy Gad's Hill Place at the age of 44. The mansion was held in high regard by Dickens as he had walked past it as a boy and dreamed of living there.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Coma teen showing signs of recovery

A TEENAGE boy who slipped into a coma after being set upon by a 15-strong gang is on the road to recovery. Jack Blanchard, 13, was discharged from hospital last week – more than a month after the attack took place.

The sports-mad teenager was left fighting for his life after the mob assaulted him in Parkwood Green on Wednesday, July 23.

Witnesses said blood was pouring from his ears and mouth as paramedics worked on him for 15 minutes.

Jack's injuries were rumoured to have been caused by so-called "kerb-stomping" kicks to the back of the head, made famous by neo-Nazi gangster film *American History X* and mafia TV series *The Sopranos*.

Recalling his first visit to King's College Hospital in London, where Jack was treated, father Steven Blanchard said: "When I saw him my heart broke. I barely recognised him. His head had been used like a football. Whoever did this is the worst kind of human being."

Five teenagers have been arrested in connection with the attack and released on bail.

Dad kills son in farm digger accident

A SIX-year-old boy died when his father accidentally drove over him in a JCB.

Bobby Eastwood was fatally injured while playing on his family's High Halstow farm.

Distraught dad Bob, who is in his 20s, raced to help the youngster after the tragedy unfolded at 6.30pm last Wednesday evening.

Paramedics rushed the boy to Medway Maritime Hospital, where he later died.

The family, who run a civil engineering firm called Bepcon, have been too upset to speak about the incident.

Cllr Phil Filmer, who lives in High Halstow, said the community was in shock: "It's left the whole community devastated. It's very sad – you can't really put into words what the family must be going through."

"They are a very tight-knit family – the parents of the little boy live in the same small holding as the grandparents. I spoke to the grandad about it yesterday and he was obviously very upset. It's just tragic."

Police have confirmed they are not treating the matter as suspicious.

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TV chef will be strictly dancing in competition

Gary Rhodes tangoed by training

BY SIMON ROBINSON

CELEBRITY chef Gary Rhodes will swap the kitchen for the dancefloor after signing up to Strictly Come Dancing.

The Medway-raised Michelin-starred cook will be up against 15 other famous hopefuls, including former EastEnders actress Jessie Wallace, TV presenter Lisa Snowden and singer Rachel Stevens.

Gary, who attended Twyford Junior and Howard School in Rainham, has started a gruelling training programme to ensure his flamenco and foxtrot are as good as his cooking.

He will be dancing with Karen Hardy, who won the show with cricketer Mark Ramprakash two years ago, but admits the lessons are already taking their toll.

He said: "I started by thinking 'I

The contestants

Heather Small - M People singer

John Sergeant - Former ITN political editor

Gillian Telford - Former EastEnders actress

Christine Bleakley - The One Show hostess

Jessie Wallace - Former EastEnders actress

Phil Daniels - Former EastEnders and film actor

Andrew Castle - GMTV presenter and former tennis star

Gary Rhodes - Michelin-starred chef

Cheri Lunghi - Film and TV actress

Don Warrington - Rising Damp actor

Jodie Kidd - Supermodel

Lisa Snowden - TV presenter

Rachel Stevens - Former S Club 7 singer

Tom Chambers - Holby City actor

Mark Foster - Olympic swimmer

Austin Healey - Former England rugby player

can do that, of course I can do that, it looks so easy' but then you start training with your partner and my goodness it's so difficult.

"My feet are blistered to say the

least and my thighs are in agony. I feel like I've just run the marathon and I'm not kidding."

Other celebrities hoping to cha cha their way to the title include GMTV presenter Andrew Castle, rugby star Austin Healey and model Jodie Kidd.

The hit BBC programme, now in its sixth series, kicks off on Saturday, September 20, with Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly returning as hosts.

Bruce said a contestant needs "stamina and style" to be champ.

He added: "People often ask me to predict who'll win and I never do, but I've got a sixth sense about the sixth series. The winner will be a man ... or a woman."

Previous winners include singer Alesha Dixon, cricketers Mark Ramprakash and Darren Gough, actress Jill Halfpenny and newsreader Natasha Kaplinsky.

The show's regular professional dancers will make a comeback, including Brendan Cole, Camilla Dallerup and Darren Bennett.

Picture: BBC



HOT STUFF: Gary Rhodes has been partnered with professional dancer Karen Hardy

'Patronising' leaders

FROM FRONT PAGE

High Court injunction and the group came down. In response to defence barrister Michael Wolkind QC, he said Kingsnorth discharged more carbon dioxide emissions in a year than the least polluting 24 nations in the world.

He said the group didn't come down straight after the injunction was granted because they were "shattered" after their climb.

Stewart's defence is that by stopping emissions for three days they were stopping damage to property across the world.

He said: "I make no apology for what I or my friends did."

Mr Wolkind described the activists as "goodies, not hoodies".

He said the group favoured direct, non-violent action.

He told the court how the group walked on to the site wearing orange boiler suits and climbed up the chimney to stop carbon dioxide being released.

He said: "By stopping the emissions they were preventing damage to property around the world."

The £30,000 spent cleaning the chimney was outweighed by the amount of property saved, he argued.

Stewart, Hewke, Huw Williams, 41, from Nottingham, Kevin Drake, 44, of Westbury, Wiltshire, Will Rose, 29, of London, and Emily Hall, 44, from New Zealand, all deny causing criminal damage to the power plant.

The case continues.

NASA scientist all fired up by power station emissions

A LEADING climate change expert is coming to Kent tomorrow to voice his concerns about plans to build new coal-fired units at Kingsnorth power station.

NASA scientist James Hansen, who has spoken out against both the Clinton and Bush administration's stance on global warming, will meet with eco-activist Andy Rogers in Maidstone at 10.30am.

Mr Rogers, of Kingsnorth Climate Action Medway, said: "The fact such a preminent scientist is coming to Kent just goes to show how big the issue of Kingsnorth has become and its global significance."

Mr Hansen entered the debate in December last year, when he wrote a letter to Prime Minister Gordon Brown calling on him to drop plans for coal-fired plants that do not capture CO2 emissions.

In the letter, the scientist stated: "We must solve the coal problem now. Global climate is near critical tipping points that could lead to loss

of all summer sea ice in the Arctic, with detrimental effects on wildlife, initiation of ice sheet disintegration in West Antarctica and Greenland, with progressive, unstoppable global sea level rise.

"This will cause shifting of climatic zones with extermination of many animal and plant species, reduction of freshwater supplies for hundreds of millions of people, and a more intense hydrological cycle with stronger droughts and forest fires, but also heavier rains and floods, and stronger storms driven by latent heat, including tropical storms, tornadoes and thunderstorms.

"Action now could still point the world on to a course that minimizes climate change. Coal clearly emerges as central to the climate problem."

Energy giant E.ON wants to build two new coal-fired units to replace the ageing plant at Kingsnorth on the Hoo peninsula.

The Government is considering the planning application.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Residents to watch out following street meeting

A NEIGHBOURHOOD watch scheme could be set up in Lordswood thanks to an informal 'meet in the street' between police officers and residents.

More than 60 people aged between 12 and 90 attended the meeting, organised by Lordswood and Capstone neighbourhood police officer PC Gavin Nicholls and PCSO James Bateman. Overgrown hedgerows and anti-social behaviour were among the main points raised.

Another 'meet on the street' is to be held in a couple of months' time.

Social care students get cash incentive to study

STUDENTS considering a career in health and social care have been given a new incentive.

Medway council will now sponsor selected students studying social care at Mid-Kent College's Horsted centre. The Entry to Social Care scheme is the result of a union between the Medway council and Kent Community Housing Trust (KCHT).

Students were surprised to find a cheque for £300 slipped inside an envelope which accompanied their certificates. The money was a celebration of their exceptional attendance and participation.

Football hero brings his England story to store

WORLD Cup winner Sir Bobby Charlton will sign copies of his new autobiography at Bluewater on Friday, September 19.

The former Manchester United and England football star will meet fans at Waterstone's from 12.30pm to sign his new book *My England Years*.

The book tells the story of his time playing for the national team, including his memories of the famous 1966 World Cup final victory over arch rivals Germany.

Fans are advised to arrive early to avoid disappointment.

Jump out of a plane and raise funds for charity

DAREDEVILS are being urged to take on a charity parachute jump to raise money for Cerebral Palsy Care.

Adventurous volunteers can take on jumps from the 3,000ft 'static line' solo, to the 12,000ft 'accelerated freefall' tandem.

No experience is necessary. For more information and an application pack call Cerebral Palsy Care on 01634 220330.

Grants to give our athletes a sporting chance Elite to benefit from extra cash support

BY SIMON ROBINSON

TALENTED athletes across Medway are set to receive £500 grants from the national SportsAid charity to help fund their pursuit of a gold medal at London 2012.

The cash is being made available to those sportsmen signed up to Medway council's elite athlete support programme.

SportsAid, whose past beneficiaries include five-time Olympic gold medallist Sir Steve Redgrave and 17 of the 19 Team GB gold medallists in Beijing, will add £500 to the £250 the council already gives the next generation of runners, rowers and cyclists.

The partnership between SportsAid and Medway council is the first of its kind in the South East.

Medway 2012 manager Bob Dimond said: "We are delighted to be joining up with SportsAid to deliver even greater support to Medway's young elite athletes."

"Medway is creating the facilities and the environment in which its best sports men and women can reach the top of their chosen sports, and this endorsement from SportsAid highlights the success of our athlete support and will further raise the profile and aspirations of our future stars."

SportsAid chief executive Tim Lawler added: "As the lead agency that supports emerging talent in sport it is important that



DEVELOPMENT: State-of-the-art facilities are being built at Medway Park to help the area's Olympic prospects

we work in partnership with other organisations who run initiatives with similar objectives but perhaps on a smaller scale.

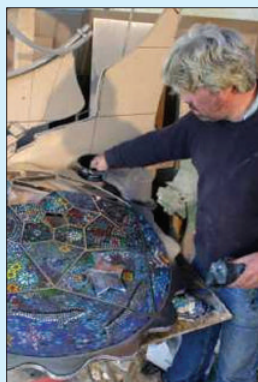
"Our role is to ensure that the right athletes, with great potential and need, receive support when they need it most. This is why we work with sport's National Governing Bodies to identify these future champions."

"Working with Medway council is fantastic as it allows us to build on the impact of the role we play on a local level and complements

the support they are already offering their talented athletes."

Medway's elite athlete support programme, which was launched in September last year, provides athletes with sports science and therapy support from the University of Kent at Medway and free access to council-run leisure facilities.

The additional SportsAid funding will assist athletes with travel, training, accommodation, competition fees and equipment costs.



Sculpting a living out of dragons

SCULPTOR Guy Portelli will up tools for his biggest exhibition to date – after securing an £80,000 investment on hit TV show *Dragons' Den*.

The established artist, who studied at the Medway College of Art, will set to work on his Pop Icons project – featuring artists such as Amy Winehouse and John Lennon – having gained the financial backing of three 'dragons' on last Wednesday night's show.

Mr Portelli, from Tonbridge,

offered the BBC show's five prospective multi-millionaire investors 25 per cent of the exhibition's profits in exchange for £70,000.

At one point it seemed all five business gurus were willing to back the sculptor's idea, with Scottish entrepreneur Duncan Bannatyne even tabling a £90,000 deal.

However, Mr Portelli eventually opted for a three-way split with Theo Paphitis, Peter Jones and James Caan.

Speaking to the BBC after his successful venture into the intimidating *Dragons' Den*, the sculptor said he was surprised to even appear on the show.

He said: "Not in my wildest dreams did I think I'd be on the programme. It was almost a spiritual experience, I woke up Easter morning and sent in my idea and within four weeks I was in the den."

Medway College of Art is now known as the University of Creative Arts.

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Picture: JORR KUDCO

COST CUTTING: Fans have criticised Gills chairman Paul Scally over the closure of Town End to the home side

Gills fans go out of town

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

A DECISION to close part of Gillingham's Priestsfield Stadium has angered fans who have been asked to switch seats.

Only away supporters will now be allowed to sit in the previously-shared Brian Moore Stand after the club announced it did not want to pay for extra police to separate rival fans.

Some of those affected are season ticket holders who paid £220 to sit in the stand, which is more commonly known as the Town End.

Floods of complaints were posted on the club's official message board, with some saying they will not renew their tickets next year.

Gills Independent Supporters Club chairman Gary Liptrott, who sits in the Gordon Road Stand, said he can understand where they were coming from.

He said: "Obviously it's a little unfair on the supporters because they have shown a preference to sit up the Town End, and it seems ludicrous to introduce this change so soon into the season."

"We're going to miss that support and I think it will have a big impact on the team because when they are attacking that end we won't have anyone there to cheer them on."

"Surely they should have thought about this during the close season."

Gillingham have played at Priestsfield since the club's formation in 1893, and home supporters have always had a presence at the

Town End. The terrace was extended in the 1950s but was otherwise untouched until it was demolished and replaced with the temporary, uncovered Brian Moore Stand in summer 2004.

It is named after the late former ITV commentator who was once a director at the club.

Some Town End supporters chose to target Gills chairman Paul Scally during their criticism of the change on the club's website.

Gillsmungus wrote: "Never in my time supporting the club have I ever known there to be no Town End."

"I saw my first game from that end and the fans who sit there are just as passionate about 'their end' as the Rainham Enders. It's a sad day for this support. Mr Scally, you need to be ashamed."

Visitors

Priestsfield Stadium has a capacity of about 11,500 but the opening game of this season – against Luton Town – attracted just 5,339 supporters, of which about 1,000 were travelling fans.

Chief executive Mark Jones said if the team has a successful season on the pitch and attendances rise, the Town End decision may be reversed.

He added: "We hope to operate as many police-free games as we can this year, and we also felt we needed to reduce the cost of stewarding for that part of the ground."

"But this is only for the time being and is something that is under constant review."

"We want to spend money building a team that will be challenging for promotion, so we need to save it in other areas."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Young offenders told to keep away from town

THREE prolific young offenders responsible for a spate of car break-ins have agreed not to return to Maidstone when being sentenced by a court.

Luke Courtney, 21, of Groombridge Drive, Gillingham, was sentenced to 15 months at a young offenders institute after pleading guilty to 14 counts of theft from motor vehicles, two charges of attempted theft from motor vehicles and an offence of handling stolen goods.

The two others, both teenagers, pleaded guilty to six counts of theft from motor vehicles and an offence of motor vehicle interference. Jack Courtney, 18, also of Groombridge Drive, Gillingham, was ordered to complete 160 hours community service and pay £3,861 compensation. A 15-year-old boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was sentenced to a two-year supervision order.

The trio were sentenced through the Mid Kent Prolific and Other Priority Offender Process, a new Home Office initiative to tackle prolific offenders.

Coach company ferries us to Olympic landmarks

GUIDED tours of future 2012 Olympic landmarks are being laid on by coach company Kings Ferry.

The Gillingham-based firm is capitalising on the success of Britain's athletes in Beijing by offering trips to sites in east London that are being redeveloped for the next games.

Commercial director Danny Elford said: "We are keen to promote this service to schools and sports organisations in the hope it may inspire young upcoming stars."

For more information on the tours visit www.the kingsferry.co.uk/olympics.

Digger used in attempted supermarket ATM thefts

RAM-raiders smashed a JCB into a supermarket in a bid to make off with two cash-laden ATMs.

The incident took place at the Tesco store in Courtney Road, Gillingham, shortly after 4am on Monday morning.

The gang responsible escaped the scene before police arrived, but are believed to have left empty-handed. It is thought the digger had been stolen hours earlier.

Police investigators are looking for witnesses to the raid. Call the police on 01634 792529, or CrimeStoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.



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Attractions include warship HMS Cavalier, Victorian naval sloop HMS Gannet and Cold War submarine HMS Ocelot. It also boasts the Victorian ropery and Number Three Slip, which houses a Midget submarine, giant tools, steam machinery and a collection of vehicles.

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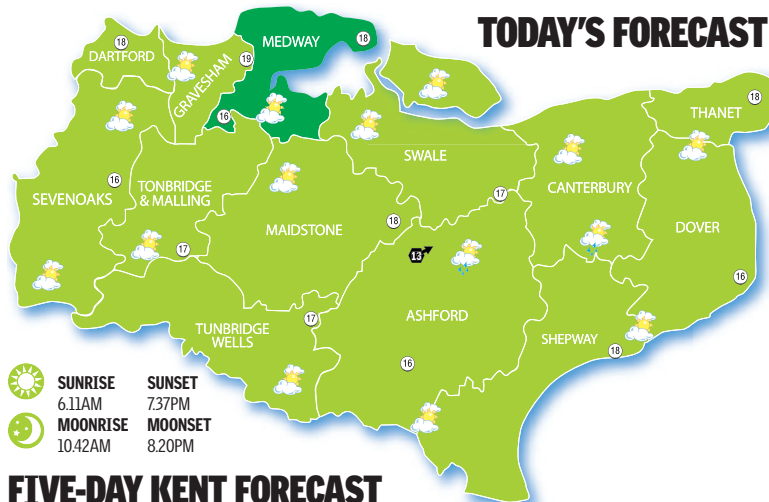
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FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	16°C	18°C	18°C	18°C	19°C	Gravesend	17°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	20°C
Canterbury	18°C	18°C	18°C	18°C	20°C	Maidstone	16°C	18°C	19°C	19°C	20°C
Chatham	18°C	18°C	18°C	18°C	20°C	Ramsgate	18°C	18°C	18°C	18°C	20°C
Dartford	17°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	20°C	Rochester	18°C	18°C	18°C	18°C	20°C
Dover	16°C	16°C	17°C	16°C	17°C	Sevenoaks	15°C	16°C	17°C	16°C	17°C
Faversham	18°C	18°C	18°C	18°C	20°C	Sittingbourne	18°C	18°C	18°C	18°C	20°C
Folkestone	16°C	16°C	17°C	16°C	17°C	Tonbridge	16°C	18°C	18°C	18°C	19°C
Gillingham	18°C	18°C	18°C	18°C	20°C	Tun Wells	16°C	18°C	18°C	18°C	19°C

TODAY'S FORECAST



WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	4:19pm	6.0m
	Sunday	4:52pm	5.8m
Dover	Saturday	2:33pm	6.6m
	Sunday	3:05pm	6.3m
Dungeness	Saturday	2:38pm	7.6m
	Sunday	3:12pm	7.3m
Ramsgate	Saturday	3:03pm	5.0m
	Sunday	3:35pm	4.8m
Sheerness	Saturday	4:09pm	5.7m
	Sunday	4:42pm	5.5m
Whitstable	Saturday	4:16pm	5.3m
	Sunday	4:47pm	5.2m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	18°C	Madrid	28°C
Athens	28°C	New York	27°C
Barcelona	29°C	Paris	20°C
Beijing	27°C	Rome	29°C
Bombay	29°C	Sydney	19°C
Cape Town	15°C	Tenerife	25°C
Cardiff	16°C	Tokyo	29°C
Gibraltar	29°C	Vancouver	16°C
Hong Kong	33°C	Warsaw	19°C
Las Palmas	24°C	Wellington	14°C



GIFT: John Weir presents the laptop to the cadets

Marine cadets given computer

FUNERAL director John Weir continued his family's long-running relationship with the marines by donating a laptop to the Chatham Marine Cadets.

Mr Weir handed over the £450 computer at the cadets' Brompton Barracks HQ after a chance meeting with the unit's chairman.

The Medway-based funeral director said: "I met the chairman when they were out recruiting.

"As four generations of my family have served with the marines I feel I've got an affinity with the group and so I asked what I could do to help.

"They told me they had been borrowing a laptop for training programmes and to do presentations, so I decided to donate one to them.

"The training staff were very grateful. What impresses me about the staff is the support they give to the cadets, many of whom go on to serve with the marines."



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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

STEVE CORBISHLEY



Q Can you tell us a little about yourself?

A I hit the big four zero this year, so am trying to avoid any signs of a mid-life crisis! I am married and have two beautiful daughters, Martha and Fenella.

I moved to Kent from Manchester in 1987 and attended Christ Church College in Canterbury, doing a degree in film and television studies, which is about as far from policing as you can get. I joined Kent Police in 1993 and my career has been exciting and varied, working across the county as well as the Home Office and places as far afield as China.

My recent post was deputy commander for mid-Kent, which covers Maidstone and Swale. I am delighted to be Medway's new area commander. Medway has an excellent team of officers and staff and benefits from first-class support from Medway council and other partners.

Q When did you join Medway police and what responsibilities do you have in your new role?

A I started my new job on July 22. My responsibilities are wide and varied, but can be summed up as ensuring we provide a first class police service, that we protect the public by reducing crime and we make everyone living and working in Medway feel safe.

Q How difficult a task is it to replace Jan Stephens?

A One of the benefits I have in taking over from Jan is that she has left Medway police

in a very healthy condition. My job is to lead the officers and staff in achieving even greater things. It is also important I work with partners and community leaders to make sure that Medway remains a safe place.

Q What do you hope to achieve?

A One thing I won't be doing is ignoring what the public tell me and a key issue I know people want is for us to deal with the problems that make them feel unsafe or intimidated – such as anti-social behaviour.

We must also make sure those who break the law are brought to account for their actions as quickly as possible. I want to make sure everyone has confidence in Kent Police and if they do need to call us they are met with a professional, supportive response.

Q What are the major challenges Medway faces?

A These are exciting times for Medway, not least with the amount of regeneration planned. Lots of investment is being made to extend what Medway has to offer in education, leisure and living, which I am sure will make the towns the envy of the South East.

However, we need to make sure these benefits are accessible to all those living here, particularly young people, the elderly and those from smaller community groups.

It is important to note that people's fear of crime is far removed from the reality. As an example, I recently asked members of the pub-

lic how many burglaries they think are reported each day. Figures ranging from 100 up to 500 were mentioned, when in fact it is just two or three a day.

With more than 200,000 people living in the area, the risk of being burgled or being a victim of many types of crime, such as violence, is actually very small indeed.

Q Tell us something most people don't know about you.

A My biggest passion outside work is Manchester City, which is probably not the best thing to admit in Gillingham...

I have a strong affection for the Gills which goes back to the promotion play-off final the two clubs played at Wembley in 1999.

I ended up sitting with the Gills' fans, who were fantastic to be with as an opposition supporter. I really do hope Mark Stimson and the team do well this season. They are a club Medway can be proud of.

Q What do you like to do when you're not working?

A I go to a lot of concerts, though my musical tastes tend to be quite eclectic. Recent gigs have included Neil Diamond, Goldfrapp and Kylie.

My biggest pleasure is getting out and about with the children and visiting new places, though I am a little bit worried for my wallet, as my wife has discovered there are some very good places to shop in Medway.

Q & A

The new area commander for Medway police spoke to Simon Robinson about the job, the challenges that lie ahead and filling the large shoes of his popular predecessor, outgoing chief Jan Stephens

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Olympic gold medalist Jamie Staff tells Yourkenttv's Tom Howard how he quit the sport. Search 'Jamie'



A look at the thrills and spills of Broadstairs Folk Week with Julie Maddocks. Search 'Folk'



Tortilla Army play live and tell Charley Vines about their unusual inspirations. Search 'Tortilla'



Maidstone Rugby under 15s are put through their paces the New Zealand way. Search 'Haka'



Take a peek at Yourkenttv favourite EmCee Flapjack's most ambitious film yet. Search 'Mr Carter'

EDITOR'S CHOICE

You can view all these videos and others from around the county with the click of a mouse at...

yourkenttv.co.uk

Rocket man aims to cross Channel

BY STEVE KNIGHT

ROCKET man Yves Rossy will attempt to make history this month when he launches himself across the Channel.

The Swiss national is aiming to be the first person to complete a jet-propelled flight from Calais to Dover on Wednesday, September 24. Rossy, who celebrated his 49th birthday last Wednesday, completed a test flight at the end of last month with an eight-foot carbon-fibre wing powered by four engines.

He flew for more than 22 miles – the equivalent of a cross-Channel trip.

Afterwards Rossy said: "Everything went well. It was awesome."

"It's my longest flight with this wing. If there are no technical problems it will be OK for the English Channel."

"I did the distance. Everything is going swimmingly."

Rossy's stunt will mark 99 years since Louis Bleriot became the first man to cross the Channel in an aircraft.

It will be broadcast live in 165 countries by the National Geographic Channel and will also be on website www.natgeotv.com.

Rossy, who is nicknamed FusionMan, said: "My flight will be a tribute to all those who came before me, many of whom were killed."

The test flight on August 20 saw the former commercial and fighter pilot leap from a small plane 7,500ft above the town of Bex, in Switzerland.

Despite having to postpone the jump several times because of "electronic interference problems", Rossy reached speeds of 180mph as he flew to Villeneuve and back wearing a heat-resistant suit similar to those worn by racing



FUSIONMAN: Yves Rossy plans to cross the English Channel using unique jet wings strapped to his back

drivers. He was able to alter direction in the sky by shifting his weight or simply turning his head and shoulders.

When he had reached his destination of Bex airfield, he released two parachutes at 5,000ft and 4,000ft to land safely and with two litres of fuel remaining.

Rossy's planned Channel crossing came as news to Dover Coastguard, although a spokesman said it was not a legal requirement for the rocketeer to contact them.

She added: "It's something we would like to be told about, but we are in the dark at the

moment. For instance we would like to know if he will be in communication with somebody during the flight.

"It's not the sort of thing you can just go ahead and do. He will have to obey the rules of the Dover Straits, of which there are many."

Rossy staged his first public flight in May, when he wowed crowds with an acrobatic display above the Alps. He later admitted a 360-degree flip was to "impress the girls".

For more information on Yves Rossy, including videos and photos of him in action, visit www.fusionman.ch.



SNOW WHITE: Emma Barton should avoid apples

Come and join the auditions

GIRLS from across Kent are being given the chance to tread the boards with the stars of this year's Marlowe pantomime.

Auditions for the juvenile ensemble of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs take place in Canterbury on Sunday, September 21.

Choreographer Abi Jouxson-Mair, who comes from Chatham, will be putting girls aged between eight and 16 through their paces at the Prince of Wales Community Centre in Military Road. Registration is at 3pm and the auditions start at 3.30pm.

Snow White producer Paul Hendy said they would be looking for the usual combination of girls who can sing and dance. He said: "Apart from that, all we ask is that they smile!"

He went on: "The girls should come along to the auditions ready to dance and we ask that they don't bring any food, only water. If anyone feels anxious about auditioning on their own – don't! Everyone will be taught a routine and asked to perform it in groups."

For any queries about the auditions contact Alison Grant at Evolution Productions by emailing ali@evolution-productions.co.uk

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs opens at the Marlowe on Saturday, November 29, and runs until mid-January.

It stars TV presenter and magician Stephen Mulhern (last year's Aladdin) and EastEnders actress Emma Barton, along with a talented supporting cast. Further details are available from the box office on 01227 787787 or see www.marlowetheatre.com



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Innovation to beat superbugs

■ BY JENNA PUDELEK

ENTREPRENEURS and businesses in Kent with products or technologies that could help prevent the spread of superbugs have been invited to take part in a new programme by the NHS.

NHS Innovations South East, which helps health service inventors promote their ideas, said it believed industry could play an active role in helping combat the killer infections.

It said automotive, IT, food and drink, engineering and manufacturing firms across the region could help the NHS beat the bugs.

The Office for National Statistics announced on Thursday that the number of death certificates in England and Wales mentioning *Clostridium difficile* (C diff) increased 28 per cent in 2007.

Deaths from the superbug have risen year on year since 1999, the authority found.

KOS Media has been running a hand hygiene campaign highlighting that simply

washing your hands can help stop the spread of superbugs.

We have been working with the NHS to raise awareness about how infections spread and good control and prevention methods.

Reducing healthcare-associated infections (HCAIs) like C diff and MRSA is one of the top priorities for the NHS and the Department of Health believes new technologies and equipment, as well as good hygiene practices, can help it achieve its targets more quickly.

Jo James, chief executive of the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, said: "My initial view is that MRSA and C diff are problems that they [the NHS] have not managed to find a solution to yet and they are growing problems."

"Why not look to industry where there is a wealth of experience and call on the experience that is out there? It is not just a hospital problem; it is a problem that affects us all."

"There are so many industries...where they have got lots of things already there and a huge amount of experts dealing with

the problem [of infection control and prevention].

"I think it is a great initiative to look outside and look for help and pull the resources to combat superbugs."

The chamber is an independent body that was set up to support business growth and enterprise in Kent.

NHS Innovation South East is one of nine hubs across the country. The Smart Solutions scheme is being run nationally by NHS Innovations North West.

Brian Griffiths, the project director, said: "Our aim is to find the most effective solutions to control HCAIs and we are keeping an open mind as to where these could come from."

"Whether it is a product from a medical company, something developed for a completely different purpose or even an idea from an inventor in the spare room, we will assess its potential."

Dr Sara Mumford, director of infection prevention and control at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, said: "This



is a very positive and welcome initiative. If companies come up with potentially effective ways of combating infections we are always willing to take part in trials of new products."

• If you think you have an idea or solution that can help the NHS beat superbugs visit www.smartsolutionsforhcai.co.uk.

New bus posters part of drink-drive crackdown

HARD-hitting posters are being carried on buses across the county highlighting the dangers of drink driving.

Kent Highway Services' 'drinking and driving wrecks lives' campaign has gone out across 72 Stagecoach buses, covering Maidstone, Ashford, Dover, Thanet, Canterbury, Folkestone, Dartford, Gravesend and Tunbridge Wells.

KHS' road safety chief Anne-Marie Penny said the posters were being run to remind drivers that drink driving is dangerous all year round, not just at Christmas.

She said: "Drink-driving wrecks lives all year-round and drivers need to realise that it's just as dangerous in the summer as it is at Christmas."

"You don't have to be drunk to be dangerous – even one drink can affect your judgement and reactions."

"By using these bus posters, we can reach more drivers than a static poster could and it's vital that we get our message out there to try and prevent needless tragedies caused by drink driving."

Kent police figures reveal a total of 250 motorists are arrested every month on the county's road for drink driving offences.

Drivers caught under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be given a mandatory ban, a fine of up to £5,000 or a possible prison sentence.

The poster campaign will run across Kent until September 29.



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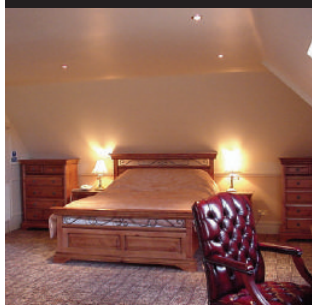
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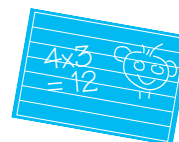
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BREAK TIME



SPECIAL CREW: Pupils with their certificates

Police seem to be getting younger...

PUPILS from four Medway primary schools investigated a mock crime scene at the end of a police-led Young Specials programme.

During the six-week scheme pupils also gained an insight into police work and the constabulary's role in the community, were given a behind-the-scenes tour of Medway police's headquarters and spent four sessions with the Children's University looking at forensic science.

The last of the weekly sessions, held at Gillingham police station, included visits from the force's motorcycle team and dog handlers.

Certificates and goody bags were handed out by Rainham and Gillingham MP Paul Clark, Medway council's head of children's services Rose Collinson, and former chief superintendent Jan Stephens.

Inspector Dave Coleman said the scheme had been a huge success.

"This was the first programme of its kind for children in Medway and we are thrilled with how well it has gone," he said.

"Everyone involved has enjoyed the experience and we hope to be able to roll this initiative out as a programme available to all schools."

The schools taking part were: New Brompton College, Skinner Street, St Mary's Catholic Primary and Westbrook Junior, all in Gillingham.

SEND your schools news and pictures to yourmedway@kosmedia.co.uk. You can also upload your own video clips of schools events on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk

Across the globe to tomorrow's world

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

YOUNG scientists from across the globe converged on Medway for an international conference.

Bright sparks from Israel, Australia, Spain, Switzerland, Slovenia and the USA put their heads together at the two-day event at the University of Greenwich's Chatham Maritime campus last week.

The group discussed recent developments in polymer colloids, which helps manufacturers produce better paints, inks, pharmaceuticals and detergents.

Professor Martin Snowden, head of the university's School of Science, said: "How can we make sure the pigment in paint is evenly dispersed throughout the tin?"

"Or that the tiny amount of active ingredient in a bottle of detergent is held in suspension in the bottle?"

Questions

"These are the sorts of questions that polymer colloid scientists can answer."

"This is an interesting area of science which is increasingly important to industry as it helps bring better, cheaper products into all our lives."

"The University of Greenwich has a great deal of expertise in this area and I'm delighted that its standing has been acknowledged by the decision of the UK Polymer Colloids Forum to hold its meeting here at Medway."

"The campus has excellent conference facilities with meeting rooms and accommodation set in a charming and historic environment."

"I know our international visitors were really impressed by what is on offer here."

Prof Snowden was one of three university



CAMPUS WELCOME: Professor Martin Snowden outside the School of Science at the University of Greenwich

representatives at the conference. He was joined by Dr Simon Richardson and PhD student Joanna Thorne. Dr Richardson, senior lecturer in biopharmaceutical sciences and director of research in the School of Science, is an expert in the field of nanomedicines – using tiny particles to deliver drugs into the body.

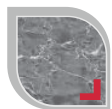
Ms Thorpe presented her research on using 'intelligent' polymer systems for taking oil out of water, something which could be useful to help clean up oil slicks.

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yourmedwayblogger

Group editor Gary Wright is all for free speech, but he won't let Olympics hype obscure the real issues



You pay your money (if you must) and make your choice

I HAVE never thought it right for the lucky individuals in the press to have a go at competitors.

But when someone has a dig at either my newspaper, or one of my reporters, I'm going to take a closer look at the thinking behind it.

Bear with me here, this won't take too much of your time.

There are a few local papers and news websites serving Medway that compete for your attention, so I feel it is up to you – the reader – to decide which suits you.

And, during my 21 years as a journalist, wherever I've worked, I have largely chosen to steer clear of attacks on the competition in other newspapers (regional and national), television and, of course, on the internet.

I believe that Yourmedway, along with our online website, can satisfy most of your news and sport needs.

But I genuinely respect anyone's decision to spend 70 pence a week on a local newspaper, although there are, sadly, fewer and fewer readers prepared to say goodbye to £36 a year.

Last week, Yourmedway highlighted the way your council had chosen to spend more than £12,000 of your money on sending a representative to the Beijing Olympics.

Our postbag showed that many of you weren't happy, either, especially since Medway council has trimmed cash from leisure and sports facilities.

Councils are elected to represent us. I believe it is the duty of local newspapers to monitor how they spend your cash and to keep you informed.

So, when former editor David Jones decided to have a go at us for doing just that, I was a little surprised.

I rarely read his column in the Maidstone Kent Messenger's Medway edition, but my associates tell me he is well known for getting to grips with all kinds of issues.

Only last week he compared himself to a tired, sagging old tree and found time to write about gorgeous Kelly Brook's attendance at her brother's wedding THREE weeks before.

But it was his column on the Olympics that caught my eye, specifically the Daily Telegraph's coverage of London Mayor Boris Johnson.

As Mr Jones repeated the same mantra that London couldn't possibly equal the Chinese spectacle, blah, blah, yawn, he turned to this newspaper's front-page story about the 12-grand trip to Beijing enjoyed by Medway's deputy 2012 manager.

Yes, in case you missed it, Medway has a deputy 2012 manager. There's a manager, too, and a third member of the team, costing you getting on for 100 grand a year in wages.

They will, I assume, co-ordinate our five sporting centres that may – or may not – be used as training facilities for 2012 athletes. Bargain, eh?

Mr Jones missed the point by describing our coverage as "absurd".

I'd like to think all local newspapers should tell readers how their council tax is spent.

But if you agree with Mr Jones on the local edition of the KM, then that's fine.

Each to their own.

As I said, it's up to you, the reader.

You pay their money and make your choice. But you don't need to part with any money to make one of those choices, of course.

GET IN TOUCH...

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LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, **Jon Coates**, on 01303 817048 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Medway blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the news editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourmedway.co.uk.

Write to The Editor, Yourmedway, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

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ESTABLISHING itself as the crown jewel of dance music festivals, Creamfields was the first of its kind in the UK – now you can get your hands on a special triple CD to mark its first ten years.

And over the last decade it has retained its crown as the nation's number one, expanding from its UK roots to stage events in Argentina, Poland, Czech Republic, Malta, Spain, Romania and Brazil to name a few.

The festival continues year on year to bring fans the ultimate outdoor clubbing experience with an all-star line up.

This year Creamfields is 10 and to celebrate its anniversary and biggest dance event of the year we introduce Creamfields 10 Years The Album.

The world-renowned clubbing brand Cream deliver yet again with a journey

through some of the biggest moments in dance.

Highlights on CD1 come from headliners Faithless, Underworld, Groove Armada, Basement Jaxx, Fatboy Slim & Mylo.

Massive trance anthems on CD2 come from Sasha, Chicane, Mauro Picotto, Da Hool & Agnelli & Nelson and the dance marathon continues on CD3 with Dizzee Rascal, Calvin Harris, Eric Prydz & Fedde Le Grand.

We have five copies of this great CD up for grabs. To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Creamfields CD Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR. Closing date is September 19, 2008.

Q) Creamfields marks how many years with this new CD?

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TALK TIME

ADRIAN LOWTHER

The athletics team manager talks about Medway and Maidstone Athletic Club and their emerging talent.



Tell us a little about yourself.

I am the senior men's team manager for Medway and Maidstone Athletic Club. I am also a distance runner in the senior team and have won the Kent 10,000m and 3,000m steeplechase on the track this year. I started athletics on my tenth birthday in 1991 and I am 27 in a few weeks.

Tell us about the club.

The club was formed in 2001 following the merger of Medway Athletic Club and Maidstone and Rochester Athletic Club (formerly known as GEC Avionics AC). Since then the club has gone from strength to strength. It has gone on to not only gain national league status in both men's and women's athletics but has also proved to be one of the strongest teams in the south of England. We provide training and competition in track and field, cross country and road running for people of all ages and abilities. We train in both Medway and Maidstone and have our headquarters at Deangate Track in Hoo. We are looking forward to having two new tracks in the coming year; at Medway Park in Gillingham and at Sutton Valence, near Maidstone.

Are there any athletes we should be keeping an eye on in the future?

We have a number of athletes who have been awarded international vests this year. Martin Brockman is one of the country's up and coming decathletes and Lucy Underdown is the country's top young discus thrower. There are several other youngsters who are winning national medals and wearing the England or Britain vest! Across all age groups and disciplines the club is one of the strongest in Kent.

In some areas, for example senior men's cross country running, the club is the best in Kent and one of the top few in the South East.

YOUR LETTERS



Unfair angle to front page story

Your front page story concerning Helen Cockersole's visit to Beijing isn't very professional, is it?

The eyes of the world will be on our country when we host the Olympic Games in 2012, and it's for all of us to be positive and upbeat to try and ensure the whole operation is a success.

It's not helpful when the media play into the cynics' hands with the slant your Simon Robinson has put on his piece.

You should know what is behind this visit, clearly it was necessary, and it was just poor journalism to use words and sentences like; beano, taxpayers' money, jaunt, £1,370 per day trip, entirely funded by tax payers, despite cutbacks across key services.

I'm sure your readers would like to know where Yourmedway stands with regard to the 2012 Olympic Games.

David Howes,
by email.

• **Editor's reply:** We are fully supportive of the 2012 Olympics and wish our athletes and the organisers every success. However, it is the duty of a fair local



COMMENT ONLINE TOO

NOT only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the www.yourmedway.co.uk website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article. To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think. And remember, www.yourmedway.co.uk is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Medway as well as our villages.

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newspaper to monitor how council taxpayers' money is spent. It is then up to our readers, who are after all the electors

and the people to whom local councils have to answer, to decide whether they are happy with cash being spent this way.

Is it fair to spend money on jaunts to Beijing at a time when the council is cutting cash to leisure and sports facilities?

How can council justify spending?

After reading the article on the front page of last week's Yourmedway, it really has got to a laughable stage where we are now expected to swallow the disgraceful beano to Beijing experienced by Helen Cockersole, whoever she is.

We are led to believe that £1,550 per day for eight days, a total of £12,400, of taxpayers' cash is money well spent on an event four years away.

What wonderful facilities did she promote that warranted this disgraceful squandering of money?

Does this ridiculous council not understand that these games will benefit nobody such as myself, as a carer on £50 per week.

As a couple myself and my partner live on approximately £10,000 a year on benefits, which includes having to buy specialist equipment for my disabled partner. As a primary carer, who cannot work outside of the home, I receive £50 a week as my sole income although I work 24 hours a day.

I find it unbelievable that this money has been spent sending this woman to China on nothing more than an eight-day break slightly interrupted by a special reception, where one assumes she explained the cutbacks made in the leisure and sports facilities in the area!

Not everyone is so wrapped up in an event which will turn into nothing more than another corporate exercise.

One wonders how much of her own money was used to fund this inexcusable disgrace.

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I presume Ms Cockersole will not be the only ineffectual council official in Great Britain to have benefited from one of these pointless trips at the taxpayers' expense?

Scott Burns,
from Cliffe Woods, by email.

Cash could have been put to better use

As I am not a lover of sport and turn the television off or to another channel when it comes on, I most strongly object to Medway council chiefs going to Beijing on what they apparently claim to be to promote the towns' pre-games training camp facilities.

When let's face it, we the public know it was another way of having an eight day holiday to see the Olympic Games at the taxpayers' expense.

Why didn't they go before if it was that important?

As a senior citizen we do not get an increase in our pensions in relation to inflation.

It annoys me to know the council is intent on wasting taxpayers' money for their own purpose.

They would not have to increase the council tax so much if they did not do this.

Apparently it has been said that the 191 route buses will not be running to Hoo after 6.30pm.

How are people supposed to get home who work out of office hours? The money wasted on going on the 'Beijing holiday' would do more good getting workers and others to and from work to help with the economy

K Batchelor,
by email.



It was right for us to embrace opportunity

Not sure this sounds like much of 'a beano' – more a rare opportunity to promote our towns to an international audience.

Maybe we should have stayed at home while our neighbours in the South East stole a march on us...

I popped in for a look at the handover event at Rochester Castle at the weekend and there was a great turnout, showing how people round here are embracing what will happen in 2012.

David Johnson,
from Chatham, comment posted on web story
at www.yourmedway.co.uk.

Council priorities are wrong everywhere

I read your front page story with amazement that yet again Medway council has squandered thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money to send an official on a jolly to Beijing under the pretence of promotion.

If the alleged underfunding of leisure facilities in the area is correct, this once again highlights the ridiculous slogan adopted by the council of 'Customer First' – never was a slogan so loosely used.

No one but people like Ms

Cockersole will have gained or will gain any benefit from this disgrace.

While I admire and congratulate what the British team did in Beijing, I simply cannot jump on the bandwagon and get excited about London 2012.

There will be those out there who would bring back tarring and feathering for people so disgusted with the waste of money and corporate hijacking of this event in four years time, and a complete distrust of any rubbish spouted by officials of this event. But the spirit of the Games has fallen from where it was due to the greed of the faceless bureaucrats who will hijack the event to feather their own nests.

This ridiculous expenditure on nothing more than a glorified holiday (of course she and her colleagues will defend this with all sorts of nonsense) highlights where council priorities lie.

London 2012 will not benefit the Highlands of Scotland, the once buzzing and now sadly declining areas of the country that are being ripped apart by the crushing poverty that this and other governments are creating on a daily basis in the name of progress.

The corrupt money men in London will crawl out of their corporate holes, glean as much as they can before returning to their world of greed and self gratification.

In the end I am sure every council up and down the length of this once great country will have at least one Ms Cockersole, who will have been happy to spend taxpayers' money on this utterly indefensible waste of money. Shame on her and her like.

Allison Russell,
from Rochester, by email.

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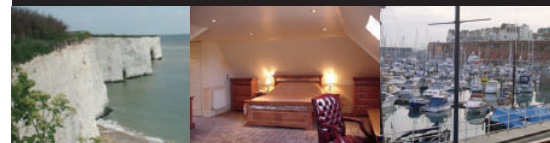
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Pictures: Ian Tilton

GOOD BOOK: The cartoon version of The Jungle Book was the last to be produced by Walt Disney himself - here the story is brought to life on stage

Book into the jungle

The bear necessities of life brought to the stage

GRAB a vine and swing into the world of The Jungle Book as a popular stage version of the classic tale returns to Kent.

Birmingham Stage Company's hugely successful production is a colourful and exciting family show that brings Rudyard Kipling's beloved story to life. Meet the creatures of the jungle as they battle to protect the life of young Mowgli and embark on an adventure that brings them all sorts of surprises.

The company commissioned children's playwright Stuart Paterson to adapt the 100-year-old story in 2005.

It was set to a brand new score by composer BB Cooper and lyricist Barb Jung, along with additional music and orchestrations by talented 16-year-old newcomer Gideon Fineman, and played to sell-out crowds across the country.

Now it is back on the road by popular demand and Kent audiences have the chance to discover the magic.

A talented cast of 10 bring the unforgettable characters to life, with realistic animal movements created by expert Peter Elliot. He is, of course, a master of movement himself, having played monkeys in the



films Greystoke, Gorillas In The Mist and Congo.

The story follows the adventures of young boy Mowgli, who is raised by wolves in the jungle and feels as at home there as any of his furry chums.

But when the menacing tiger Shere Khan announces his intention to kill the boy, Baloo the bear and Bagheera

the panther make a heartbreaking decision. They decide to take Mowgli to the man village in the interests of his safety, but their journey will be fraught with danger, adventure and unexpected encounters.

A trailer of the show can be viewed at www.birminghamstage.net.

The Jungle Book began life as a collection of stories written by English author Rudyard Kipling in 1894. Inspired by his early childhood in India, and his return as a teenager to work, the stories were written while he was living in the US.

The first book contained stories about the adventures of Mowgli, along with other fables which used talking animals to make moral points. The Second Jungle Book, published the following year, featured five more stories about Mowgli.

The stories were to inspire one of the best-loved Disney animated films, which was also the last movie produced by Walt Disney himself.

Tickets are priced from £10 to £14 for adults and £8/£7.50 for children. Phone the box office on 01892 530613/532072, or book online at www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.

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MIA DOLAN

Saturday, September 20
Brook Theatre, Chatham

LOCAL psychic Mia Dolan will be demonstrating her intriguing powers for a Medway audience later this month.

The Sheppey-born medium is the star of ITV's Most Haunted and her live shows have become very popular. From giving private readings and carrying out 'ghost busting', she now gives psychic demonstrations in front of hundreds of people.

Dolan was about 12 when she spotted her first ghost, a nun at Minster Abbey. At the age of 17 she is reported to have seen a child falling down a stairwell in a block of flats, only to discover that a child had died that way a few years earlier.

She started giving readings at the age of 20 and has since written three books. When her brother was killed in a pub fight on his 25th birthday and she lost her 18-year-old son Shane in a fall in 1997, Dolan claimed to have foreseen both terrible events.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £15. To book call 01634 338338 or see www.medway.gov.uk/theatres.



VERONICA'S ROOM

Thursday to Saturday,
September 4-13
Oasthouse Theatre, Rainham

A YOUNG couple find themselves drawn into a chilling mystery in Rainham Theatrical Society's latest production, Veronica's Room.

Susan and Larry are invited to the Brabissant mansion by the Mackays who are struck by Susan's resemblance to Veronica Brabissant, the long-dead daughter of their employers. Some 40 years after her death, the elderly couple convince Susan to impersonate the dead girl in order to please a dying relative. But all is not as it seems and the young couple soon find themselves trapped in a nightmare.

As Susan is locked in Veronica's Room, will the audience discover whether she is Susan or Veronica?

This atmospheric period thriller was written by Ira Levin, best known for the haunting Rosemary's Baby.



The production stars Jo Godman and Dean Caston as the Mackays, Dan Harbour as Larry and

Duncan Rand award-winner Emily Whitaker as Susan.

Call the box office on 01634 233660 to book.

Jennings, Helen Reddy and Willie Nelson.

Locorriere proved hugely popular when he visited the Orchard last year and this year's The True Voice of Dr Hook on Tour will feature not only his solo work, but

the classic songs of Dr Hook. Early booking is recommended, so get your tickets now to avoid missing out.

Tickets are priced from £18.50. Call the box office on 01322 220000 or see www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.



DENNIS LOCORRIERE

Saturday, September 20
Orchard Theatre, Dartford

THE 'true voice of Dr Hook' can be experienced live when Dennis Locorriere brings his tour to Kent.

Throughout the 70s and 80s Locorriere's distinctive voice could be heard issuing from record players and radios all around the world when he fronted the hugely successful band. Dr Hook achieved more than 60 gold and platinum records, scoring number one hits in more than 40 countries and winning fans all over the globe with hits like Sylvia's Mother, When You're In Love With A Beautiful Woman and The Ballad of Lucy Jordan.

But his early success was just the start of his musical career. Locorriere has since become a prolific songwriter, with his songs being recorded by artists such as Bob Dylan, Crystal Gayle, Olivia Newton-John, Waylon

MEDWAY LEISURE

House is commissioned to help plan a big day

BRIDES and grooms-to-be will find a wealth of suppliers and service providers at the Commissioner's House on Sunday.

The building at the Historic Dockyard, Chatham, will host The Wedding Experience, where couples can find plenty of help to make their big day perfect. There will also be the chance to find out more about marrying on Victorian naval sloop HMS Gannet. The event runs from 10.30am to 3.30pm and admission is free. See www.wedding-experience.co.uk or call 01795 844449.

Engineers to be model hosts for club showcase

WITNESS some small wonders and try your hand at building your own at the Medway Modellers Showcase.

The Royal Engineers Museum in Prince Arthur Road, Gillingham, will be hosting the annual event on Saturday and Sunday at which the Medway Modellers Club displays its creations. There will be all kinds of models on display and there will be a chance to build your own too.

It runs from 10am to 4pm. Call 01634 822839 or see www.remuseum.org.uk.

Experience the Middle Ages at historic castle

MEET characters from the past in the castle gardens this weekend.

On Saturday and Sunday A Journey Through The Middle Ages will bring medieval Rochester to life. See what life was like in an authentic encampment and meet a host of fascinating people, from knights and barber-surgeons to minstrels, storytellers and monks.

The event runs from 10am to 5pm. To find out more call 01634 843666 or email visitor@medway.gov.uk.

Nothing shady about this great live covers band

ROCK will be in full colour when Shades of Gray performs on Saturday.

The five-piece band covers classic rock hits, mostly from the 70s, but with tracks from other eras thrown in. Find out more at www.shadesofgrayrock.co.uk.

Catch them live at the Carpenters Arms in Cossack Street, Rochester. For more details about the gig or venue, call the pub on 01634 818172.

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yourmedwaygetaways



When only the best is good enough

BY KATE WHITING

IN Ocracoke harbour, the pelicans perch on wooden mooring posts in the setting sun, as though to welcome the fishing boats back after a long day out at sea.

And they couldn't have found a better – or more secluded – place to rest.

Ocracoke, one of the narrow sandbar islands that runs down the coast of North Carolina, was for years one of America's best-kept secrets. In 2007, however, it was thrown into the global spotlight when its virgin beach beat more than 650 sandy havens to be named the best in the United States.

It was the first time a beach outside of the more popular sunspots Hawaii and Florida had been chosen, and sitting on the warm white sand I could easily see why.

Ocracoke island boasts 15 miles of uninterrupted, undeveloped, pristine beach, with gently sloping sand-dunes and spectacular views stretching out over the Atlantic. There are none of the oversized chain hotels, beach bars, or banana boats of built-up resorts. Ocracoke defines understatement and simplicity.

US beach expert Stephen Leatherman (fondly known as Dr Beach) selected Ocracoke Lifeguarded Beach on the basis of 50 criteria, ranging from sand quality and colour, to wave size and even traffic.

There certainly aren't many cars in Ocracoke, mainly because the island has only



WATER BABY: Ocracoke is a beautiful island, boasting a 15-mile long beach, 26 miles off the coast of North Carolina

700 residents and because its location, 26 miles from the mainland, means many visitors fly into this unspoilt paradise instead of struggling with the three-hour car ferry. But the journey is well worth it for those seeking a real American treasure.

Besides its beach, the island, and the surrounding Outer Banks boast some of the most extraordinary history, set in a carefully preserved landscape.

One exciting way to explore is by kayak. Ride The Wind surf shop, in the centre of Ocracoke's snug historic town, offers guided eco tours. The kayak tour, led by friendly Ocracoke Bob Chestnut, took us away from the ocean and up some of the island's natural

inlets too, where we found oysters, hermit crabs, turtles and even a sea snake darting among the reedbeds.

To give ourselves some geographical perspective, we headed to the historic town of Beaufort on the mainland, which lies at the heart of North Carolina's Crystal Coast.

From Beaufort, it's easy to take day trips to other sandbar islands, which make up the Outer Banks, and one of the most spectacular is Cape Lookout. Its lighthouse, with its large black and white diamond pattern, is an icon.

And as the sun glinted off the Atlantic at the end of another beautiful day on the Outer Banks, it was easy to see why North Carolina is so justifiably proud of its unique coastline.

FACT FILE: CAROLINA

Time difference	UK minus 5 hours
Capital	Raleigh
Population	8,856,505
Languages	English
Climate	Maritime temperate
Religion	Christian
Currency	£1 approx 1.8 US dollars

Travel details

- Kate Whiting flew from Heathrow to Raleigh Durham as a guest of American Airlines. Package from £575 including seven nights' car hire with complimentary sat nav/bookable through Bon Voyage: 0800 3163012/www.bon-voyage.co.uk.
- Same package from Gatwick from £559.
- Accommodation can be arranged at Beaufort Inn (001 252 7282600/www.beaufort-inn.com); Captain's Landing (001 252 928 1999/www.the-captainslanding.com); and The Cove B&B (001 252 9284192).
- Destination information is available from North Carolina Division of Tourism: 0207 367937/www.northcarolinatravel.co.uk



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HIGH street favourites WH Smith is offering a buy-one-get-one free promotion on hundreds of paperback books.

Titles up for grabs include Russell Brand's My Booky Wook, Tony Parsons' My Favourite Wife, Ian Rankin's Exit Music, and Jodi Picoult's Second Glance. The paperbacks start from just £6.99.

For more details pop into WH Smith in Chatham's Pentagon Centre, Gillingham High Street or Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre, or visit www.whsmith.co.uk.

Good sports help you save on the essentials

SPORTS giant JJB is offering a range of summer savings across their back-to-school essentials.

The nationwide retailer, which has a store in Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre and Chatham High Street, boasts a wide variety of children's clothing, shoes, bags and sports goods at bargain prices. Backpacks start from £9.99, while kids' shoes are as low as £14.99.

For more information pop into the store or visit www.jjbsports.com.

Dancing judge will be strictly signing books

STRICTLY Come Dancing judge Len Goodman will be signing copies of his new autobiography at Bluewater next week.

The former British Champion, who now lives in Dartford, had a tough upbringing in London's East End and found fame late in life as the head judge on the successful BBC show. His book, Better Late Than Never, is published by Ebury tomorrow and is priced at £18.99.

Fans can meet him at Waterstone's from 6pm on Wednesday, September 10. Call the store on 01322 624831.

Make sure your pet still has a healthy bite

SEPTEMBER is the British Dental Association's Oral Health Month, but the focus is not just on human teeth.

Bad breath can be a sign your pet has oral health problems, but Molar believes its ProDen PlaqueOff Animal product can help. Made from a special seaweed, the product comes in granulated form and is easy to add to food. The company claims it has lots of oral health benefits and contains vitamins and minerals.

Priced from £9.99 for 60g, it is available across Kent, see www.molarltd.co.uk.

Join in the celebration with a diamond shine

ELNETT is celebrating 50 years of preventing bad hair days by releasing the new Diamond Hold and Shine hairspray.

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YOUR TV REVIEW

STRICTLY COME DANCING
BBC One, Saturday (from Sept 30)
THE X FACTOR
ITV1, 7pm Saturday

BY TOM BETTS

THE term 'monumentally bad' wouldn't even go half-way to cover this year's Big Brother, so let's be glad that it's finally over.

The desperadoes have been released and some respite is upon us, but, before we know it, I'm a Celebrity... will be back and we'll all want to top ourselves again.

Before all that starts, though, for a moment let us enjoy the battle of Saturday nights.

It's the clash of the titans, an irresistible force meeting the immovable object.

Two prime-time shows are heading for a dust-up and will be slapping each other around the entertainment face in the weeks to come.

In the BBC corner is Strictly Come Dancing and its cast of celebrity contestants, while, in the ITV corner is The X Factor, with its celebrity judges, auditioning weirdos and the very pointless Dannii Minogue.

Not so long ago, there would be only one logical choice: The X Factor's audition stages were a joy to watch as humiliation was piled high upon many poor souls deluded enough to think they had what it takes to bag a nailed-on Christmas number one.

However, it is now the dancing rival that holds more appeal for many.

In part it is because the X Factor's joke has worn very thin, whereas dancing also requires skill and hard work, rather than just turning up and belting out a Robbie Williams cover.



POPULAR: Strictly Come Dancing is beating The X Factor, where the joke has worn thin

In SCD, the Beeb has a big winner on its hands and has flogged the format to the rest of the world in the same way Simon Cowell did with his creation.

Not bad for an idea that seemed to smack of desperation when it was first launched in 2004.

I must admit I thought this was the worst idea I'd ever heard when the show tanged on to our screens, but I was wrong – it's genuinely entertaining stuff.

Ratings are huge and Bruce Forsyth is in his element, finding a deserved second wind to his career.

This year should be a good series. A certain comedy value is sure to come from former news man John Sergeant, while, for the fellas, Rachel Stevens, Lisa Snowdon and The One Show's current beau, Christine Blakely, will all be giving us a twirl, which Brucie will surely approve of.

Strictly Come Dancing, in the words of the great man himself on a Saturday night: "You're my favourite!"

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)
AN interest in a foreign culture could prompt you to take a trip overseas. Your love life will get a boost as a result. If you're already in a relationship, your bond will grow closer. Being away from the trappings of home will allow you to focus on your partner's needs like never before.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)
WORK becomes much more pleasant, thanks to a thoughtful female colleague. This woman knows just what to do and say to resolve conflicts. You may be inspired to decorate your office. Being surrounded by lush, green plants helps you to think outside of the box.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753

LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)
VISITING a friend or relative could prove a welcome change of pace. A change of scenery will give you a fresh perspective. You're starting to see you have more choices than you thought. This liberating realisation will cause you to make a startling choice.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)
SPENDING more time on private pursuits is essential. You're emerging from a social period that has left you drained. Take a few moments to go on solitary walks, enjoy a quiet cup of tea, or read for pleasure. Stop telling yourself such behaviour is selfish.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)
YOUR sex appeal reaches its peak for the year; take advantage of it. Luring a love interest into your web will be an enjoyable task. If you're in a relationship, you could be granted favours. Signing a contract or entering a partnership will help you get the acclaim you desire.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763

GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)
AT last, you're able to abandon yourself to fun. Be sure to schedule a vacation in the next few weeks. If you're single, you could meet someone special on this trip. Keep your eyes open for a witty sophisticate with impeccable fashion. Take charge of a troubling household concern.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)
BUSINESS ventures related to art, music, and entertainment are favoured. You have a knack for delivering what the public wants. Go ahead and charge a higher price than you intended. You'd be surprised at how much people would pay for a little enjoyment.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 22)
FRIENDS are an invaluable source of support. They'll help you make sense of a stressful work situation that has you flummoxed. Being able to laugh at yourself in the midst of a crisis will be your saving grace. Be ready to let go of your dignity for the sake of the team.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)
LOVE could be your primary focus. Don't be afraid to let a loved one put your needs ahead of theirs. In the past, you were willing to shield this person from ugly realities. Now it's your turn to experience the same sort of kindness. Accept this gift with an open and grateful heart.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752

CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)
A TROUBLED family relationship could undergo healing. A female relative who was once critical of your lifestyle is starting to come to terms with it. You're not sure how long her compassion will last, but it's a relief. Helping a neighbour will set off a pleasant chain of events.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755

LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)
TAKE the initiative in a romantic relationship. Generally, you like to be the one who is pursued. Learning to assert yourself will bring rewards. Stop telling yourself you do not deserve love and happiness. A thoughtful relative could remind you of your tremendous gifts.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)
YOU'RE making a name for yourself in the public sphere. All of the sudden, everyone wants your advice and help. This is a wonderful time to make inroads to your desired industry. If you already love your job, you could take this opportunity to start a side business.
• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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	8		7		1	6		4
			9		6			8
				8	9			
1		3	6		7	9		8
			1	5				
	3			4		7		
6		1	5		8		3	
9			3	1		8	6	

MEDIUM

			7					
		8	2	9				4
					2		8	6
6	9						2	1
2	3		7					
	7				6	1	4	
5			3		9			
					1			

HARD

		2		4				6
					2			3
	4		6			8	2	
	3	9						
6		5		7			1	
	5	4			9		8	
1			3					
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CRYPTIC CLUES

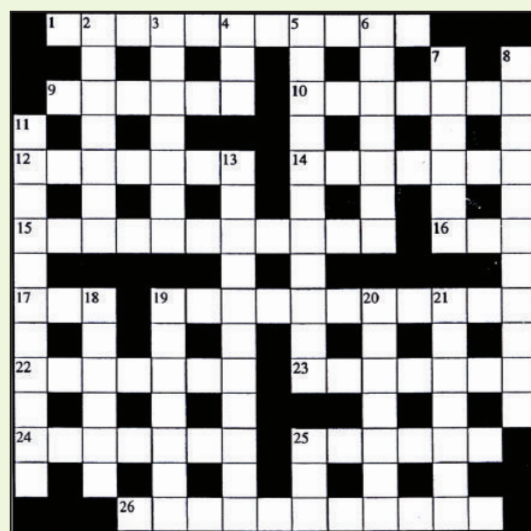
ACROSS

- 1 Modern communication from the pulpit? (4,7)
- 9 Large lady's crime? (6)
- 10 The German travelled on river (7)
- 12 Plenty, but giving no thanks, getting only small number (3,1,3)
- 14 Runner to leap over ramp (3-4)
- 15 Quite satisfied with what spring has to offer (4,7)
- 16 Disbelieve part. This part? (3)
- 17 Frequently appeared out-of-town (3)
- 19 Did a plaited design that was in ruins (11)
- 22 Agreement coming from orchestra (7)
- 23 Disclaim responsibility was void surprisingly (7)
- 24 Falls again back with Rear Admiral (7)
- 25 Before end of day at monastery (6)
- 26 A new racing round garden vessel (8-3)

DOWN

- 2 It's to do with an order modifying dialect (7)
- 3 Trade that's constantly on the increase (7)
- 4 See Fenland community (3)
- 5 Evaded in a crabby way? (11)
- 6 Welshman from Tangier (7)
- 7 Some of those quelling development (6)
- 8 Stayed at lower level but did not continue to be blue (7,4)
- 11 Completely ignorant to be aware of the absence of anything! (4-7)
- 13 Newly sealed variety of cheese (11)
- 18 Jack's double had sauce (6)
- 19 Miniature scene from play ten included (7)
- 20 Spirited flying (7)
- 21 Reportedly in a Greek guesthouse (7)
- 25 Greek character's graphic piece (3)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Easily visible (11)
- 9 Thickset (6)
- 10 Former capital of Uganda (7)
- 12 Practicality (7)
- 14 Pertain (anag.) (7)
- 15 In all seriousness (6,5)
- 16 Study (3)
- 17 Immediately (3)
- 19 Wasting (11)
- 22 Larger than normal (7)
- 23 Obedient (7)
- 24 Outlive (7)
- 25 ___ de corps (6)
- 26 Written declaration (11)

DOWN

- 2 Remote parts of Australia (7)
- 3 A drawing in (7)
- 4 Glacial (3)
- 5 Not made clear (11)
- 6 Uncoil (7)
- 7 Calmed down (6)
- 8 Large seabird (7-4)
- 11 Destructive computer program (6,5)
- 13 Size (11)
- 18 Wet (6)
- 19 Self-killing (7)
- 20 In an abnormal position (7)
- 21 Impose pain (7)
- 25 Sprite (3)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No50

EASY

6	4	5	7	3	9	1	8	2
7	1	9	5	2	8	4	3	6
8	2	3	1	6	4	5	9	7
9	7	1	4	5	6	8	2	3
4	8	2	9	7	3	6	1	5
5	3	6	2	8	1	7	4	9
2	9	8	6	4	7	3	5	1
1	6	4	3	9	5	2	7	8
3	5	7	8	1	2	9	6	4

MEDIUM

5	7	8	3	9	4	1	2	6
3	9	4	6	2	1	7	5	8
1	2	6	7	5	8	9	4	3
2	8	7	9	4	6	3	1	5
9	4	3	5	1	2	8	6	7
6	5	1	8	3	7	2	9	4
8	1	2	4	6	3	5	7	9
7	6	5	2	8	9	4	3	1
4	3	9	1	7	5	6	8	2

HARD

4	5	9	6	8	2	7	1	3
2	1	3	9	5	7	4	6	8
6	7	8	1	3	4	5	9	2
3	9	5	8	4	1	2	7	6
1	4	7	5	2	6	3	8	9
8	6	2	3	7	9	1	4	5
9	2	4	7	6	3	8	5	1
5	3	6	4	1	8	9	2	7
7	8	1	2	9	5	6	3	4

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No51

ACROSS: 1 Pickpocket 6 Scab 9 Probe 10 Numb 11 Esne 13 Last but not least 14 Rightful 16 Eczema 18 Hobart 19 Molasses 22 Lead a merry dance 24 Ante 25 Ward 26 Lethe 27 Lark 28 Quarter-day
DOWN: 1 Popular 2 Cross 3 Presbyterian 4 Construe 5 Exmoor 7 Castanets 8 Beef-tea 12 Black-and-blue 15 Gibraltar 17 Joyrider 18 Holdall 20 Scenery 21 Deja-vu 23 Noted.

QUICK SOLUTION No52

25 Eff
18 Watery 19 Suicide 20 Ecotop 21 Inlet
Herring-gull 11 Trojan horse 13 Measurement
10 5 Unexplained 6 Unlabeled 7 Abated 8
Certicate. 22 Outback 3 Section 4
Outsize 23 Duffell 24 Survive 25 Espirt 26
apart 16 Ben 17 Now 19 Squandering 22
Enlighten 12 Reassure 14 Pariah 15 Joking
Enlighten 12 Reassure 14 Pariah 15 Joking

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

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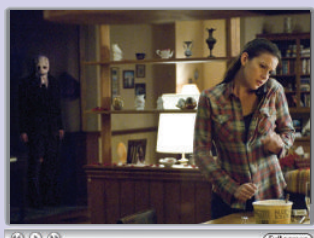
ON GENERAL RELEASE

BABYLON A.D. (12A)



Imagine an environmentally-ravaged world teetering on the brink of catastrophe with mankind's fate resting on the hulking shoulders of action star Vin Diesel. As mercenary Thorop, he escorts a young woman from her Neolite convent in Mongolia to New York. Their journey includes an explosion at a train station and a scramble to board a submarine before it descends beneath the ice.

THE STRANGERS (15)



A battle of wits between a young couple and three masked strangers who invade their home in the dead of night, this is a riveting edge-of-seat thriller. An impressive first effort from director Bryan Bertino, who never identifies the attackers enacting their despicable plan almost without exchanging a single word, except for a chilling final remark.

HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY (12A)



The sequel to Guillermo del Toro's 2004 fantasy is every bit as fast and furious as its predecessor, melding dazzling production design with wry humour and explosive action sequences. Here del Toro is given free rein to let his imagination run amok, concocting a dark and bloody fairytale full of trolls, goblins and a 9ft Angel Of Death. Hellboy II: The Golden Army is a triumph of design.

Stepping up for laughs

BY KATE WHITING

WHEN it comes to showing the funny side of serious situations, you can always rely on Hollywood's Frat Pack – the band of comic brothers led by the likes of Ben Stiller and Will Ferrell.

From Ben's pathetic stalker in There's Something About Mary, to Steve Carrell's 40-Year-Old Virgin and last year's Knocked Up – a tale of accidental pregnancy written, directed and produced by new golden boy Judd Apatow – the pack, who love to pop up in each others' films, have poked fun at most things.

Now the 'plight' of grown-up children still living at home has been given the comedy treatment in Will Ferrell and John C Reilly's collaboration, Step Brothers.

Empty-nesters are becoming a thing of the past in the UK as more and more children choose to stay with their parents rent-free – as many as one in ten, according to research by Mintel.

In Step Brothers, produced by – wait for it – Judd Apatow, the two central characters, 40-somethings Dale (John) and Brennan (Will), not only stay at home but neither of them work and they have managed to remain in a perpetual state of adolescence.

"They never outgrow their adolescent ideas about what's cool, how they'd spend their time when they grew up, what they found entertaining," says Will, 41.

"It was a lot of fun to explore that, thinking 'What if you actually became at 40 the guy you thought you'd be when you were 13?'"

Cue juvenile T-shirts, prized drum sets, Chewbacca masks and



BROTHERS IN ARMS: Will Ferrell and John C Reilly finally face the idea of growing up

endless TV dinners for Dale and Brennan as John and Will clearly revel in their roles.

"Dale is an extreme case of arrested development," says John, 43, with a smile. "His dad's a doctor, so he's never really had to work for anything. He's just into the things that he likes and noth-

ing else interests him at all. He likes drums, sling-shots, karate and fireworks.

"He's a guy who already feels he's got the greatest life ever and he doesn't have to really work."

The film follows two single parents – Brennan's mum Nancy (Mary Steenburgen) and Dale's

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doctor dad Robert (Richard Jenkins) – who meet, fall in love, marry and then make the life-altering decision to live together.

Sparks fly when the two grown men are forced to share Dale's room and then Brennan makes the huge mistake of touching Dale's drum kit, which results in a hilarious childish fight, with them rolling around in the garden.

When the pressure of looking after two layabouts drives their parents apart, the boys finally resolve to get off the sofa and try to set up their own entertainment company, but will they be able to reunite Nancy and Robert?

Step Brothers came about two years ago after Will and John worked together with writer-director Adam McKay on motor-racing flick Talladega Nights: The Battle Of Ricky Bobby. It was such good fun that as soon as filming wrapped they started thinking about their next project.

"We sat down, had dinner and threw around all these ideas," Will remembers.

Once the trio had come up with the characters, old friends Will and Adam sat down to write the screenplay together.



STEP BROTHERS
Certificate 15

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PROPERTY NEWS

Swap the headache of selling for a new home

PART exchange can be a useful way to move and escape the hassle of selling.

Houses are selling but buyers must be sensible with the price. But new builders, who are under huge pressure to sell, have some spectacular deals on offer for existing owners.

Redrow is one of several builders who will buy a customer's current house (subject to criteria) and effectively 'swap' it for a new home; meaning a guaranteed, quick and easy sale, minus the worry of being stuck in a housing chain that's going nowhere or might even collapse.

Beryl Williams, of Redrow Homes, says: "According to the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), the number of housing transactions hit an all-time low in June, but why worry about selling your existing home when Redrow can do it for you?"

"Some people are reluctant to put their existing property on the market in the first place because they think they won't find a buyer."

Part exchange also removes the threat of being 'gazundered' – a trend that hasn't really surfaced since the 90s but is now increasing – where a buyer substantially lowers their offer just days before the exchange and the seller must either accept the lower figure, or reject it and start the entire process all over again.

Students are a good bet for making profit

KENT'S university centres are a better investment bet for buy-to-let landlords, according to a new poll.

As the property market has slowed, rental properties have become even more important, with student accommodation remaining a strong performer.

Rental yields from student accommodation in university towns and cities should continue to outstrip those achieved from buy-to-let properties without, according to industry research by headlineproperty.co.uk website.

They carried out the survey after estimates emerged which suggested that landlords offering student accommodation in university towns often benefit from annual rental yields which are one or two percentage points (sometimes more) higher.

The main reason for this is the fact that, as the numbers of those making the move into higher education continues to rise, so demand for student accommodation itself could only go one way in the years ahead.

Why not just stay put?

Moving may not be your best option

MAKING the most of your existing home is an increasingly popular option as the housing market slows to a crawl.

Extending or remodelling your home can give you the extra space and will increase its value when the market picks up again.

But before you start, the organisers of The London Homebuilding & Renovating Show, at ExCeL London from September 19 to 21, have come up with some great pointers that may save you time ... and money.

Permitted development

If your home has never been extended you could add 15 per cent to the volume of the house without needing permission. Visit www.planningportal.gov.uk and take advantage of their online volume calculator.

Know the building regulations

Even if you don't need planning permission, you may need building regulations approval. If you are converting your loft, moving a bath or toilet, installing a green heating system, a flue or altering window openings, you will need to apply for approval.

Think through your loft conversion

To comply with building regulations to get an extra bedroom, the floor may need strengthening and the roof will need at least 150mm of insulation, which will lower the ceiling. Don't forget that accessing a habitable loft conversion requires a permanent staircase and this will need landing space.

Beware of removing trees

It is a criminal offence to cut down a tree which is protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). Even if an extension doesn't require planning permission, you cannot alter or even prune a tree that has a TPO on it without permission.

The right to light

When you apply for planning permission remember your neighbours might object if you cut sunlight to their home. This is more relevant to town centre homes.

Conservation areas have different rules

If your home is in a conservation area, or is a listed building, things are not so simple. Take the time to speak with your local council's planning department before you start anything. It's a criminal offence to alter a listed building.



IMPROVE: An extension and a lick of paint could have you feeling like you're in a new home without having to move

Know the Party Wall Act

Any work you intend to carry out that is within three metres of your boundary wall will mean legally you must contact your neighbour. If you are digging a foundation, then anything under six metres from the wall means they must be consulted.

Do your homework

Do your research before you start to avoid any horrible surprises. Contact your local

planning office or visit the government website www.planningportal.gov.uk/buildingwork.

The London Homebuilding & Renovating Show has local authority planning experts on the Planning Portal stand (1037), as well as architects in the Ask the Architects Zone.

The show also features more than 200 exhibitors and 72 free seminar and master-class sessions over the four days. Tickets are £8 in advance or £12 on the door (children under 16 go free). See www.homebuilding-show.co.uk or call 0871 945 4547.

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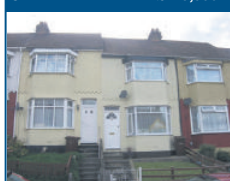
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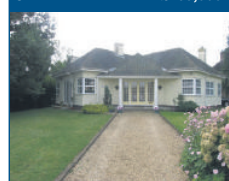
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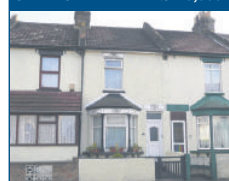
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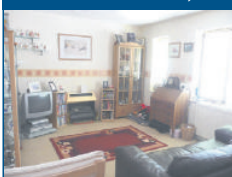
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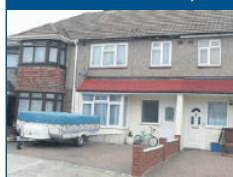
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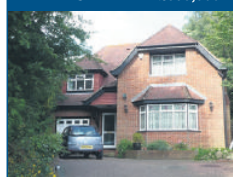
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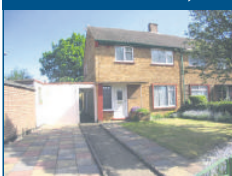
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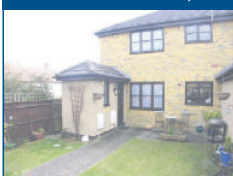
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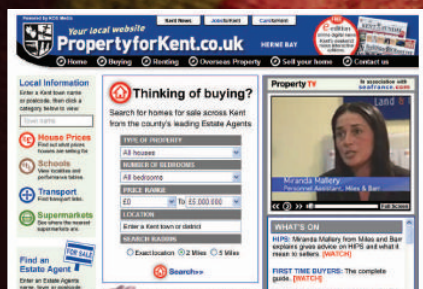
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MOTORS NEWS



Make a Superb saving on your car insurance

SKODA is building a head of steam towards launching the all-new Superb executive model.

The latest boost is impressive insurance ratings against upper medium sector rivals, with the entry diesel 1.9 TDI PD 105bhp engine in 'S' trim rated Group 6E – three positions better than the outgoing Superb.

The entry petrol 1.4 TSI 125bhp engine also better its predecessor – rated Group 7E across all three trim levels.

The new Superb (from £15,490) goes on sale in the UK from 18 September and has already caught the eye with distinctive styling and double-function rear end with a bootlid that also hinges again to deliver hatchback versatility.



Smart goes after even more sales

SALES of Smart's Fortwo city car have rocketed nearly 100 per cent this year.

No other car brand in the UK market comes close to such explosive growth and the little sister brand to Mercedes-Benz seems keen to kick volumes even higher, with a Limited Two special edition out this week.

Based on the popular 71bhp Smart Fortwo Passion and able to return 70mpg on a run, the Limited Two sells as a coupé or cabrio from £9,575, undercutting the Passion's £10,495 while gaining extra kit.



'Thanks girls' says Audi after collecting award

IT'S not clear what Audi's reaction is to the new A3 Convertible (from £22,300) being voted top convertible and Car of The Year by women's car-buying website evcars.com.

Of course the classy little soft top is a favourite with the ladies – especially in white – but did Audi really want the boys alienated quite so much?

After all, some versions of the car can do the 0-62mph dash in 7.4 seconds – more than enough to appeal to the well-heeled boy racer.



BOXER DIESEL: The rugged, high-riding Subaru Outback tested here, with its all-round comfort and smooth diesel engine, argues against the case for buying an SUV

Subaru's new legacy goes flat out for diesel sales

SUBARU would probably like to be seen as the BMW or Audi of the Japanese motor industry, but there is also something of Citroën in the way it adheres to 'pet' features.

There is its penchant for frameless door glass although it is not famous for convertibles – the usual raison d'être for such detail.

The brand is also known for all-wheel drive, but Subaru's most famous selling point must be its passion – like that of Porsche – for horizontally-opposed or 'boxer' petrol engines that deliver the lightness, low centre of gravity and flexibility that powered the brand to rally fame.

However, these excellent yet thirsty powerplants have become an Achilles Heel with the rise of diesels and fuel prices, along with the threat from global warming.

Subaru might have responded by buying a diesel off the shelf, although this would have caused horrendous re-engineering for current models.

Instead, the brand created something never seen before in the car market – a boxer diesel.

ROAD TEST SUBARU OUTBACK DSL

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

And what a lovely piece of work it is.

In the rugged and high-riding Outback estate (from £23,665) tested here, it argues strongly against buying an SUV when you can have much of the rough ground performance and traction of such cars with all the comfort and convenience of a conventional estate.

But the biggest benefit of all is the lower vibration and greater smoothness that the boxer layout brings to a diesel; it is an exceptionally smooth 148bhp two-litre unit considering the amount of punch low down the rev range and not only outperforms the 2.5-litre petrol alternative but should also average 25-30 per cent better fuel consumption – although this is available only as an auto and the new diesel has yet to gain more than a five-speed manual box.

As expected, the Outback's 4x4 layout offers incredible tenacity though a relatively softly-sprung suspension, which delivers such comfort on and off-road, combined with the higher ride height, allows some heeling on the bends.

The interior is tough and well-organised without the flashiness or flair of rivals and there is an endearing 'retro-ness'.

• Email steve.loader@hosmedia.co.uk



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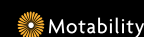
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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

ESTATES FOR ALL NEEDS

MPVs have stolen sales from more traditional sectors of the motor market, but do people gain enough extra space to offset less driver satisfaction, higher purchase prices and dull styling? Fact is you can still get much of what a used MPV offers by checking out secondhand estates and, like MPVs, they come in different sizes and classes. Our choice here offers widely different attractions; the Skoda is compact and dependable value, the Vauxhall a hugely capable load lugger, while the BMW is the epitome of an upmarket 'lifestyle estate'.

carsfor **kent.co.uk**

SKODA OCTAVIA



If you have not yet woken to used Skoda bargains, smell the coffee now with one of the best – the stylish estate spin-off from the brand's own wake-up model, the Octavia.

Mark 1 and 2s are now on the used market and diesels are the pick, though petrols can be bargains and the scorching vRS will put a smile on the face. The Octavia estate's real ace though is space within the modest dimensions of a VW Golf-based platform.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

BMW 3-SERIES TOURING



THREE generations ago, this car started the whole 'lifestyle estate' trend. Before that, estates were 'working cars'; after the first Touring was launched, the estate market split into load luggers for tradesmen and reps and trendy compact estates like the Beemer. As with all BMWs, the emphasis is on driver satisfaction and style while load-carrying comes second. Performance petrol engines are smooth and you can find bargains as fuel prices rise, while the refined diesels command ever better values.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

VAUXHALL VECTRA



WHAT will soon become the final Vectra model will also be remembered for the awesome estate. If you need size but your budget is limited then this is the car.

The secret is an extended wheelbase over and above the Vectra hatchback; combined with a huge rear opening and folding rear seats, this becomes the ultimate family estate car and an SRI or similar spec with alloys looks classy too. Diesels are the pick for low down power and economy.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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2 x Alternative Curriculum Pupil Referral Unit Managers

One post will cover Maidstone area and
the other the Tonbridge area
Starting salary £35,370, with progression through
contribution related pay to £40,705 per annum
Based at either Kroner House, Ashford or Bishops
Terrace, Maidstone

The Alternative Curriculum Pupil Referral Units are a dynamic and
creative part of Kent's wider framework of PRUs. Serving the needs
of Local Children's services Partnerships, they are working to create,
monitor and evaluate excellent alternative provision for excluded
and other 'hard to place' Key Stage 4 pupils across the county. The
AC PRUs have been devolved to work locally for groups of LCSPs in
order to better meet the needs of vulnerable children and young
people in these communities in the context of 'Every Child Matters'.

As the high profile manager of the AC PRU, you will work with a
team in the community and be responsible for the commissioning,
co-ordination and monitoring of a range of alternative curriculum
projects for excluded and other vulnerable young people at KS4.
Together these projects make up the 'classrooms' and 'workshops'
of the Alternative Curriculum PRU.

You will work closely with LCSP Managers and schools within the
relevant partnerships and report to them. You will have experience of
working successfully with seriously disaffected young people, have
an excellent knowledge of schools issues, an awareness of SEN
issues and procedures and be capable of working with diverse
multi-agency teams.

You will be able to assess the quality of learning in alternative
curriculum projects within your PRU and feel comfortable about
leading relevant staff training. You will be keen to be part of a team
that works at the cutting edge of changes in the education system.

The post requires experience, originality and vision.

When applying please mark clearly on your application form which
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To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively,
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904. Please quote reference CFE/o8/0421.

Closing date: Midday, 4th September 2008.



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For our locations in Ulm and Friedrichshafen in Southern
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- Software Engineers

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- Good University degree, PhD or Masters degree in
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- Good negotiating skills with customers and sub-contractors
- Good understanding of operational usage of military radars
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- Ability to structure Radar/EW engineering tasks from
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- Thorough knowledge of accepted development standards
and processes
- Ability to lead and/or work in integrated development teams
- Ability to control and manage complex engineering tasks
in time, schedule and cost
- Basic knowledge of German is desirable but not essential

For further information please contact +49 731 392 6123,
or send an e-mail to Manuela.Holderried@eads.com
Please forward your application to the following address:

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ELECTRICAL MAINTENANCE ENGINEER
Reliance M&E Services is currently seeking an experienced electrical maintenance engineer to work on a Maidstone council contract.
Applicants should have a working knowledge of the building services industry in commercial and industrial buildings, plus have 16ch/17th edition, 2391 test and inspection.
Successful candidates will be proactive and have excellent attention to detail. In return you will receive a company van, a competitive salary and benefits package.
Please send your CV to
Steven.Hooker@reliancecfm.com

Mid-Kent College of Higher & Further Education is one of the largest providers of Further Education in Kent with ambitious plans to build on its existing reputation.

At a time of unprecedented change the College is looking to recruit professionals to help deliver excellence in the following areas:

Further Education Sports Co-ordinator (FESCO)
15 hours per week, 3 years fixed term.
Salary: Circa £25,000 pro rata

Mid-Kent College and The Medway and Maidstone School Sport Partnerships have joined together to deliver the next stage of the PE & sports strategy for young people.

An exciting new opportunity has arisen for an enthusiastic and dynamic person who holds coaching or fitness qualifications and has a passion for sport and working with young people.

This position will focus on 3 main objectives for the 16-19 age group:

1. To increase sports participation
2. To improve sporting performance
3. To encourage sports leadership and volunteering

The post will also involve establishing links with the wider sports community.

The closing date for applications is Friday 12 September 2008.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and anyone applying for work with the College is expected to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 845402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title.

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Canterbury College

Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Co-ordinator Mathematics 37 hrs per week, salary starting from £26,365 per annum	08/61
Lecturer in Science 18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum	08/60
Lecturer Key Skills within Early Years and Public Services 37 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum	08/39
Trainer Demonstrator Animal Care 18.5 hours per week, salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum	04/94
Signer/Learning Facilitator 37 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting from £16,364 pro rata per annum. Temporary post to cover maternity until January 2009.	08/104
Teacher Education Administrator 18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £14,535 pro rata per annum	08/124
On-line Examinations Assistant 18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £14,535 pro rata per annum	08/79

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 8th September 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Close to City Centre
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Staff Discount Scheme

Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer

NORTHFLEET SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ
Tel: 0844 477 25252

As a Building Schools for the Future school we are undergoing a significant new build project commencing the summer of 2008. Our school facilities will be enhanced to allow us to offer exciting opportunities in all areas of the curriculum – be it science, sport or humanities.

Our curriculum too is changing to meet the best needs of students. As well as the traditional pathways through A Levels we are committed to providing Diploma, Young Apprenticeships and a range of vocational courses. At KS3 we are developing flexible learning to energise and challenge our students. Our new focus means we have opportunities for

Teachers of English & History
Support staff

Aim Higher Learning Mentor
35 hours per week term time only Kent Scheme
Grade 6 - £15,576 - £17,040 p.a.
Experience of working with young people of school age is essential in this role which supports students to overcome the barriers to progressing from pre to post 16 learning and gives advice and guidance on higher level progression and careers.

Careers Officer
20 hours per week term time only Kent Scheme
Grade 4 - £7,040 - £7,399 p.a.
At Northfleet School for Girls our careers programme is an integral part of pupils' education. We wish to appoint a Careers Officer to provide a guidance service for the whole school community in partnership with the Connexions Service and in support of the Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) curriculum.

We are a successful, over subscribed girls' school within the Thamesgateway, close to both the Ebbsfleet terminal and Bluewater outlet. Students in the 11-18 age range have an excellent reputation for the quality of our support of students and our examination results.

Northfleet School for Girls is an equal opportunities employer and operates a no smoking policy within the whole school site.

For further information please contact Mrs Theresa Davies or Mrs Sam Chisholm or check the school website - www.northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk
Northfleet School for Girls Tel: 0844 477 2525
email: personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk
Closing date for applications: Thursday, 11 September 2008

If you are a tradesperson who wants to pursue a new career, this is your chance to help train the Military Engineers of tomorrow.

Mid Kent College are currently looking for:

Electrical Instructor £28,219 - £30,312 per annum
You will be responsible for instruction and demonstration to trainees of the electrical trade, allied skills and related technology. If you have the ability to work as a member of a team and hold City and Guilds 236 Part 3 Course C qualification we would like to hear from you.

Electrical and Mechanical Draughtsman £28,219 - £30,312 per annum
You will be required to instruct and demonstrate to trainees by oral, visual and/or other means the Draughtsman Electrical and Mechanical trade, allied skills, and related technology. If you have completed a recognised apprenticeship and have experience of working and an Electrical and/or Mechanical Draughtsman we would like to hear from you.

Construction Draughtsman Instructor £28,219 - £30,312 per annum
You will be required to prepare demonstrations, lessons, lectures, class work and homework to enable trainees to achieve approved training objectives within this trade. If you have knowledge of the skills required for drawing office work associated with building technology and hold a City and Guilds in CAD using AutoCAD then we would like to hear from you.

For an application form and job description visit our website www.midkent.ac.uk or email rsme.recruitment@midkent.ac.uk

Closing date for applications is Friday 12 September 2008 and interviews will be held at the end of September 2008.

Informal enquiries are very welcome, please telephone
Marie Cook, Personnel Officer 01634 884736 or Iain Donaldson, Personnel Director 01634 884422.

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE
Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunity employer

The College is committed to Equal Opportunities and to selection on merit. It welcomes applications from all sections of society. We particularly welcome and encourage applications from under represented groups including black, minority ethnic and disabled people.

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Indicative band 4 £17,316 - £20,818 pa pro-rata
16 hrs per week

We are looking for a competent administrator to offer a comprehensive support service to the EDC Management Team at our Kent Dispatch Centre. You will provide clerical assistance in the form of word processing and data input, along with the taking and distributing of accurate minutes and other associated paperwork.

You will hold an RSA2 qualification or hold an equivalent level of experience, along with an excellent working knowledge of Microsoft Office and other associated packages. In addition, you will possess excellent organisational and interpersonal skills, be able to maintain confidentiality at all times, with the ability to prioritise your workload, whilst working to tight schedules and deadlines. Access to transport will be necessary, along with a willingness to travel to off-site locations.

For an informal discussion, please contact Mark Bailey on 01622 747010.

For an application pack, please email recruitment@secamb.nhs.uk - this is our preferred method of application request. Alternatively, our recruitment answer phone service is available on 01737 363529

Closing date: Monday 8th September 2008.



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the University of Greenwich at Medway

The Universities at Medway is jointly owned and managed by the Universities of Greenwich and Kent. Other partnership parties are currently Canterbury Christ Church University and Mid-Kent College.

INFORMATION AND LIBRARY SERVICES SYSTEMS SUPPORT TECHNICIAN

Ref: 01053/K3

We are seeking to recruit an experienced Systems Support Technician to assist in the management, support and ongoing maintenance of the shared desktop and associated server infrastructure, providing services to the Universities at Medway.

You will participate in the creation, implementation and testing of the shared desktop and will be responsible for maintaining the image and ensuring all desktop and server infrastructure is regularly patched and updated. You will make recommendations for improvements and implement any additional services required by the Drill Hall and ensure that the necessary security and backup/recovery procedures are in place.

You must have significant experience in both server and desktop technologies and have been responsible for installing and supporting environments running Windows XP and Server 2003. You must have experience with administering Active Directory, particularly group policy management and software distribution.

Any experience of Novell Netware/Unix/Linux, VMware, Vista, RIS/WDS/WSUS and application packaging is highly desirable. Occasionally you may be expected to provide first line support duties within the library.

It is essential that you have strong interpersonal skills and are able to communicate well at all levels.

This is an opportunity to join a unique partnership within the university field.

Salary £28,290 - £32,795 per annum

WEEKEND SERVICES CO-ORDINATOR (FIXED TERM FOR 2 YEARS)

Ref: 01054/K3

We are looking for an enthusiastic and energetic person to join our Drill Hall library team. You will have the role of managing the weekend support team (1 member of reception/security and 2 student workers) to provide a seamless IT and library support service to students of the Universities at Medway - currently comprising of students from Canterbury Christ Church, University of Greenwich, University of Kent and Mid Kent College.

You will have a background of library or IT helpdesk or HE education. You will have a knowledge or willingness to learn online information products and some specialist software. Excellent knowledge of Microsoft Office is essential.

The post is fixed term for two years as we may wish to evaluate the service we are offering. The post is for 17.5 hours a week for 35 weeks. We need to provide cover between September and July on Saturdays and Sundays: 10.45 am - 5.15 pm plus five and a half hours during the week, ideally Friday 12.00 pm - 6.00 pm.

Information and Library services are committed to the development of our staff and good training opportunities include e-learning courses, IT development and a lively programme of professional updating.

This post is fixed term for 2 years.

Salary pro rata to £23,002 - £27,466 per annum

ADMINISTRATIVE/ ACQUISITIONS ASSISTANT

Ref: 01055/K3

An administrative post within the Drill Hall Library will combine a range of secretarial, administrative and clerical duties with assisting with the acquisition of new stock. The latter is an area of work which covers unpacking new deliveries, checking records for accuracy, making corrections to them, signing off invoices and filing of packing slips.

We are looking for someone with excellent administrative and organisational skills with good secretarial and administrative experience, who would like to work within a team that is committed to developing and maintaining a high level of customer care to the wide ranging users of the Drill Hall Library.

If you have a good level of secondary education, strong IT skills, a sound knowledge of Microsoft packages and would like to know more about the post contact Virginia Malone on 01634 883336.

Salary £17,169 - £19,263 per annum

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING COMPUTING OFFICER

Ref: 01056/K3

An opportunity exists for a Computing Officer within the School of Engineering at the University of Greenwich at Medway

The duties will include provision of laboratory support to academic staff and students principally within the School's Computing and Communications Laboratories at Medway.

Applicants should have a sound technical education and knowledge of computing technology and communications networks. Experience in the use of network systems and server/client models is desirable, as is experience in the use of change management systems. In addition, experience of the use of IT within an educational establishment would be an advantage. You will need to work on your own initiative but also as part of team.

Salary £19,841 - £22,332 per annum

WORKSHOP TECHNICIAN

Ref: 01057/K3

An opportunity exists for a Workshop Technician within the School of Engineering, Wolfson Centre Laboratories, Medway campus.

The duties will include the construction of test rigs and apparatus principally within the Wolfson Centre for Bulk Solids Handling Technology.

Applicants should have a sound technical education and knowledge of manufacturing techniques. Experience in the use of handling equipment is desirable. In addition, experience of the use of IT within processing industries would be an advantage. You will need to work on your own initiative but also as part of team.

Salary £19,841 - £22,332 per annum

We aim to be an equal opportunities employer and welcome applications from all sections of the community.

To obtain further particulars and an application form visit our website www.gre.ac.uk, email: jobs@gre.ac.uk or write to the Personnel Office, University of Greenwich, Avery Hill Road, London, SE9 2UG quoting the job reference. Applications should be returned by 5:00 pm on 12 September 2008.



Public Rights Of Way Officer - Network Management

£20,061 - 29,920 per annum

(Salary dependent on experience and progression through the Career Grade is based on the fulfilment of required competencies.

Kings Hill

Kent County Council is seeking to appoint a Public Rights of Way Officer to join the busy West Kent PROW Team, based at Kings Hill. Have you ever considered working in Kent? Known as the garden of England for good reason, with its beautiful, historic and varied landscapes, idyllic villages and diverse towns, Kent has a lot to offer. On the doorstep of mainland Europe you are only 45 minutes away from enjoying a coffee and croissant in France, or of course popping into London to catch a show!

With over 6700km of public rights of way, Kent County Council manages the largest network in the country. It also has an excellent national reputation in service delivery and forward thinking, dynamic new initiatives. The West Kent Public Rights Of Way Team is looking for a new officer to join them to manage the Maidstone area network.

Responsible for a specific geographical area of the county, you will undertake a variety of operational duties particularly with respect to the maintenance and protection of public rights of way. A substantial proportion of the area sits within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. You will work closely with landowners, local councils and other agencies. A significant proportion of your workload will come from the general public.

The post carries a high-volume workload. You will be able to juggle numerous competing priorities and adapt readily to the use of new technology. You will be a team player and be educated to HND/Degree level or equivalent in a related subject. The post also requires a high level of motivation, a good knowledge of rights of way law and practice and related countryside access issues and excellent organisational and communication skills.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote reference number ER/08/0107.

Closing date: Midday 5th September 2008.



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(or text TEAM to the mobile and the team leader will get back to you)

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For an application pack please call our recruitment line on 01795 845295 stating the post you are interested in. For an informal chat call Trading Manager, Claire Jordan on 01795 845202.

Closing Date 24th September, 2008
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We are seeking to strengthen our field service team and require a Field Service Engineer to cover the South East region of the UK. Responsible for installing, repairing and maintaining Linx equipment, as well as training customers at the basic level.

You will ideally have an ONC/HNC in Electrical/Electronic Engineering and the technical understanding and ability to work with electro/technical machinery. Excellent communication skills and the ability to build relationships with customers are a must, so customer facing experience would be a distinct advantage.

You will be able to demonstrate a good knowledge of diagnostic methods and fault finding skills and be commercially minded. You will also have a structured procedural approach to problem solving.

This is an excellent opportunity to join a growing company that is receptive to new ideas and supports career development.

For further details about this vacancy please contact the HR Department on 01480 302103 or email hr@linx.co.uk. Applicants should submit a CV together with a covering letter and details of two referees to Sharon Budworth, HR Generalist, Linx Printing Technologies Ltd, Burrell Road, St Ives, Cambridgeshire. PE27 3LA. You may also email your application to hr@linx.co.uk

Closing date for applications: 20th September



TRAINEE CAD TECHNICIAN

Bruce, Cufley & Partners, a respected local firm of Structural Engineers, are seeking a young person interested in the Construction Industry. The person must be willing to be trained as a CAD Technician and wishes to gain further qualifications by attending a college on day release basis. Applicants should be qualified to GCSE Grade C or above in English, Mathematics and a Science (excluding Biology) or equivalent.

Applications should be in writing to:-
Peter Mann, Bruce, Cufley & Partners,
Suite V, Epsilon House, Laser Quay,
Culpeper Close, Rochester, Kent, ME2 4HU
Or e-mail to bc@brucecufley.co.uk

ACCOUNTANCY STAFF

We are seeking additional full-time accountancy staff to join our expanding three partner professional practice. With a background in a small or medium size accountancy firm we require candidates who must be self-motivated individuals with a positive attitude and good communication skills. The successful candidate will ideally be AAT qualified, with knowledge of IRIS accounts production, and Sage book-keeping experience. A competitive salary is available together with the opportunity to work on a broad range of clients and to develop your career in an increasingly challenging environment. Training opportunities are also available for progression towards the ACA/ACCA qualification.

Interested candidates should forward a c.v. to:-
Jackie Waymont
Beak Kemmenoe
Chartered Accountants
1-3 Manor Road, Chatham
Kent. ME4 6AE.
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Kent County Council

Contact Centre Supervisor
Starting salary £18,288 + 10% Shift Allowance
with progression through contribution related pay
to £20,061 + 10% Shift Allowance per annum
Invicta House, Maidstone

The Kent County Council Contact Centre operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week from our state-of-the-art, central Maidstone location. Working 8pm - 8am on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and alternate Sundays and to cover bank holidays, you will supervise and develop your team, ensuring the provision of an efficient, highly professional and customer focused out of hour's service to the customers of Kent County Council.

You will have demonstrated competence in a customer-focused role, with a proven ability to motivate a team in what is a potentially pressured role. It's a varied role that focuses on the coaching, development and appraisal of your team.

With excellent verbal and written communication skills, you'll be PC literate and have the ability to prioritise the workload of the team in a logical and methodical manner. This will include the need to balance the requirements of call taking and delivering admin support to the Centre.

An enthusiastic approach to this role is essential, as is the ability to be flexible in a constantly developing environment. If you are looking for a job that fits with your life and provides a challenge please contact us.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 08458 247 904. Please quote reference number CMY/08/0207.

Closing date: Midday, 19 September 2008.

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Closing date: 26 September 2008.

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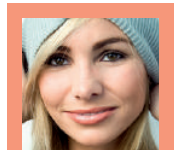
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WOMEN'S SPOTLIGHT

ANOTHER GLASS?
29yr old female, long blonde hair, blue eyes, 5'10, slim, attractive, GSOH, seeks nice gentleman for companionship and happy times. Box 440218

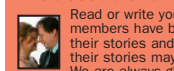
IF YOU CAN REACH, TAKE ME OFF THE SHELF!
Pettie, dark-haired, blue-eyed female, 30, fun and friendly, bright and bubbly. Bored of being single, looking for a lovely man to take me out! Box 895349

WE COULD MAKE IT HAPPEN
Relaxed redhead, 32yr old, 5'4, enjoys theatre, meals and cosy nights in, with a male, 30-42, for a happy relationship. Box 442617

SOULMATE WANTED
32yr old teacher, 5'7, green eyes, Auburn hair, enjoys theatre, cinema and music, seeking for a genuine a guy to share everything with. Box 443067

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THE NURSE WILL SEE YOU NOW

Laid-back yet outgoing nurse, 33, 5'12, faithful, happy, love swimming, the gym, seeking single down-to-earth male, 35-50, for hopeful relationship. Box 442916

THE TRUTH ABOUT RUTH
I'm Ruth, hard-working, kind, caring woman, 32, brown hair/eyes, nice smile, looking to meet a nice guy, so call me and let's see how it goes. Box 301072

LUV-LOVING FEMALE
Attractive, 31, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tall, witty intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734

MISS JULIE
Curvy brunette, 33, 5'4, single mum, wlm special man, divorced or separated, to share the nice things in life with. Box 443255

YOU WON'T REGRET IT
Nurse, 32, 5'10, blonde eyes, single mum, looking for that special passionate and caring man to share good times with. Box 443255

ALONG THE SHORE
Brunette female, 38yr old, single mum, enjoys socialising, DIY, romantic moments and family activities, WLTm a male with similar interests for friendship. Box 442393

HISTORIC MEETING?
Mum of three, 38, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693

ROMANCE IS ALIVE
Divorced, lively mum, 35, GSOH, I enjoy time with my family and friends, cinema, good food, beach walks, seeks male for honest, love and romance. Box 813930

YOUNG-AT-HEART

Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy, physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship. Box 910893

WE ARE FAMILY
Attractive brunette, kind, caring, genuine, 39, 5'10, WLTm very good-looking, fit gentleman, loyal, caring, honest, to enjoy walks, music, dancing, cooking, family life and more with. Box 443656

JUST CALL MY NAME
39yr old female, enjoys going out, trying new things, seeking similar male for friendship. Box 443823

ON MANDY
Mandy, 36, lovely brunette, petite & slim, very tactile & bubbly, professional mum, wlm honest, romantic N/S man. Box 432639

ANIMAL LOVER?
Nurse, 37yr, 2 kids, 5'8, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes the gym, cooking, swimming, salsa dancing, looking for a kind, caring, loyal male Box 431557

TOO MUCH TO ASK?
Genuine female, 41, 5'3", brunette, brown eyes, medium build, enjoys meals out, music, seeks male, 38-42, for romance. Box 155275

HERE HORSE!
Outgoing girl, 42, dark hair, brown eyes, likes swimming, walking, cycling, riding horses, outdoor sports, seeking similar male for love. Box 443591

SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE
Kind, caring, spiritual lady, 39, 5'4", average build, hazel puppy-dog eyes, brown hair, looking for genuine, caring, non-smoker, friendship first. Box 899694

ATTRACTION & SATISFACTION

Hard-working independent female, 41, dark brown hair, brown eyes, GSOH, enjoys cinema, eating out, seeking similar male with no issues for friendship first, then hopefully more. Box 442205

CAN YOU BE MY KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOUR?
Young looking 40yr old, 5'7, green eyes, loves cinema, theatre, meals, cosy nights in, music, DVDs, seeking honest, loyal, good-looking male 35-45 with similar interests. Box 442999

MEND A BROKEN HEART
Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053

PRINCESS FIONA
Fun-loving single mum, 37, 5'8, loves going out, staying in and having fun, WLTm a male to be my knight in shining armour. Box 443290

SEIZE THE DAY
Loving female, 36, 5'4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428686

BLONDE AMBITION
Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 38, 5'6", likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE
Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, with a professional, loving and tactile male for relationship. Box 442551

ATTRACTIVE BRUNETTE

Fun-loving, affectionate brunette, 43, size 12, N/S, separated amicably with 2 lovely kids, enjoys keeping fit. Seeks good-looking, slim, fit, romantic male. Box 814378

THIS STATE OF INDEPENDENCE
Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 441156

MISS JULIE
Bubbly blonde, 44, stupid and like having a laugh, good company, friendship, would like to meet new friends for hopeful love... Box 889162

COULD IT BE YOU?
Hi I'm 44, slim, 5'8, a redhead, love nights out, socialising, looking for friendship initially and hopefully more later on. Box 889800

DEAL OR NO DEAL? (IN DEAL)
Dead-based lady, 43, divorced, brunette, green eyes, 5'10, likes going out, pubs, clubs, cinema, shopping, walks, loves films and all sports except cricket. Box 443034

JUST IMAGINE
Pettie, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, more nights out, WLTm genuine male, who shares life takes us! Box 893562

READ ABOUT THE LINES
Blonde, 49, 5'4, brown eyes, slim, enjoys music, dancing, dining out and gardening, GSOH, shy at first. Looking for honest man for friendship, maybe more. Box 904969

WHITESTABLE WUNDERLAND
Hi, I'm Vette, 50, separated, blonde hair/blue eyes, size 12, 5'2", likes cinema, meals and drinks out, reading, walks, looking for male, 40-60, for relationship. Box 420160

PUTTER IN YOUR HANDS!
Sporty female, 50, Hastings-based, 5'6", blonde/blue, enjoys golf, walking, socialising, eating out, WLTm fun-loving, kind, sporty male, 48-60, 5'10", to share life. Box 163637

COMPANIONSHIP, LAUGHTER, HOPEFULLY MORE
Curvy & cuddly, outgoing, friendly, honest female, 53, 5'7, larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, music, swimming, WLTm similar loving male. Box 443642

IT'S WHAT YOU MAKE OF IT!
44yr old female, blonde hair, 5'15, slim, easygoing, enjoy many things in life, looking for someone similar out there to enjoy life with! Box 436810

HAPPY GO LUCKY
Sincere, happy woman, with GSOH. I'm 5'6, with short brown hair, brown eyes, I have lots of interests and WLTm similar guy. Box 895019

ON A PLATE
Caring, honest 46yr old female, 5'2", eyes of blue, redhead, Likes cinema, theatre, walking, WLTm male for fun and friendship. Box 895928

TOGETHER, FOREVER?
Caring person with GSOH, 48, would like to share my life with someone nice, who enjoys romantic walks, meals and wants to find love. Box 889783

HOPE AND LOVE FOREVER
Professional female, 49, brunette, loves the outdoors, good food, good wine, seeking similar as myself for loving relationship. Box 443198

ALL THAT I NEED
Young-looking, slim, attractive female, 48, fun-loving & outgoing, N/S, GSOH, love music, holidays, going out & staying in, seeks similar man, 42-50, Aylesford. Box 428593

HOPE YOU FIT THE BILL...
Non-smoking Mum with GSOH, 50, 5'13, blue eyes, medium-large build, loves music, gym, going out, travel, seeking down-to-earth, sincere guy. Box 442821

DIG DEEPER
Genuine, friendly female, 49, likes walks, gardening, nights in/out, seeking genuine, friendly male, 45-55. Dover Box 435441

LAUGHTER, THE BEST MEDICINE
Help me write my stand-up comedy routine! I'm 49, I'd just need to make me laugh out loud and understand observational comedy to make the grade. Box 892640

MAKE ME LAUGH, MAKE ME YOURS
Active, gregarious, fun-loving non-smoker, 63, slim, 5'4, very active, loves walks, the countryside, POI, animals; seeking similar male, caring, tactile, GSOH, to be my soulmate. Box 443644

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME...
Widow, 48, 6'0, 5'4, dark hair/eyes, medium build, N/S, loving, caring, no-ies, enjoys travelling, socialising, eating out, seeking similar male to enjoy life with. Fyne. Box 441177

GENUINE LOVER & FRIEND
Genuine lady, 65yr old, 5'4, enjoys walking, gardening and eating out, lots of life to give, with a sincere gentleman for a LTR. Box 442065

TO MAKE EACH OTHER HAPPY
Widow, 65, 5'3, fair hair, slim-medium build, enjoys dancing, sports, badminton, table-tennis, walking, theatre, eating out, WLTm similar male, honest, caring, to enjoy life with. Box 443671

CUTE SMILE
Tracey, 23, 5'12, green eyes, slim, laid-back, enjoys meals out, pubs and clubs, WLTm a similar female for a relationship. Box 443248

CANDLELIT CUDDELES!
40-year old gay woman, likes nice wine, candlelight, the sea, passionate people and places, muddy walks and cosy nights in, WLTm gay woman for friendship/relationship. Box 894541

SOPHISTICATED SUE

Sue, 56yr old, 5'4, green eyes, petite, loves cooking, holidays, reading and swimming, with a tall professional male, similar age, for friendship and romance. Box 443309

LOVE FEELS ALRIGHT
Firtatious, energetic female, 57, 5'13, blonde hair, curvy, loves dancing, walking, seaside, films, fun, life! Seeking special male to spoil, pamper and enjoy laughter with. Box 443672

A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP
Semi-retired nurse, 58, likes movies, walking, music, WLTm male 58-62, kind, caring, for companionship and more. Box 443795

MAKE ME PURR
Happy-go-lucky lady with nice smile, 62, 5'13, medium build, brown hair/eyes, enjoys dancing, walking, eating out, animals, seeking loving man for friendship/long term relationship. Box 443171

THE GOLDEN YEARS
Blonde female 62yr old, divorced, slim, enjoys walks and trips to the seaside, with a male, 59-64, for a loving companionship. Kent area only please. Box 442443

WARM ME UP
Single dad, 38, 6'1, large-stokey build, dark hair, great SOH, likes nights with choos and DVDs, seeking slim, sensual lady for hugs and more. Box 443643

HI LADIES
I'm 38, 5'11, average build, like pubs, restaurants, cinema, quiet nights with choos and DVDs, seeking kind, happy female with GSOH, for honest relationship. Box 442056

RAU A ME?
Down-to-earth, loyal guy, 36, looking for companionship, leading to a long-term relationship. Enjoys meals out, good company, conversation, cosy evenings in. Box 914917

WORKS LIKE SEX
Outgoing young-minded male, 40, likes swimming, the gym, war games, books, cinema, castles, POI, seeking similar woman to boggle on the dancefloor with. Box 443750

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE
Responsible stylish male, 40yr old, 6'1, enjoys socialising, music, eating out, looking for a fun-loving female to start a committed relationship with. Box 442641

PROFESSIONAL
Honest, easygoing professional single male, 38, 5'8", medium build, no lies, likes sports, going out, seeks outgoing woman for good times and bad. Box 934662

THE PERSON INSIDE
Muscular male, 42, 5'8, many interests, looking for that special lady 25-50, looks unimportant, to love & take care of. Box 443460

DON'T GO BREAKING MY HEART
Very easygoing, laid-back male, 43, 5'15, slim, hard-working, likes honest, socialising, eating out, evenings in, seeking loving, caring, honest, sincere female for love. Box 443719

HAPPY-GO-LUCKY
43yr old, 5'8, medium build, average looks, gosh, seeks less, 30-40, to share some good times with. Box 443403

BE THERE NOW
Old romantic, loyal, honest, 43, 5'7, brown hair, blue eyes, likes most things, WLTm female to settle down with, find love. Box 443410

NO TIME-WASTERS!
Genuine Frank, 61, slim brown hair, green eyes, romantic and sensitive, enjoys soul music, bowling, pubs and ake care of a female, 33-40 for a LTR. Box 442674



MEN'S SPOTLIGHT

HOW CAN YOU RESIST?
Down-to-earth loveable guy, 30, 5'8, stocky, blonde hair/blue eyes, likes the finer things in life, going out, eating in, pub, WLTm genuine girl for LTR. Box 441494

SECURITY & WARMTH
I'm 35, 6'1, have a beautiful 3yr old little girl, very honest, caring, looking for someone I can love and make a new life with... Box 896178

REAL MAN
Honest, kind, caring male, 37, blond, 6'1, enjoys walks, cinema, nights in/out, family life, WLTm like-minded, genuine female. Sarah, please call again, leave contact details! Box 430440

EVERYTHING I DO
Lee, driver, 39yr old, 6'13, dark hair, like pubs, clubs, wine bars, places of interest, sports and reading, with a woman for friendship and romance. Box 889720

DEAR CUPID
Outgoing male, 47, very young-minded, enjoys sports, football, playing golf, loves nice wine, meals; seeking smart, elegant, easygoing lady for love & happiness! Box 435554

GAME FOR A LAUGH!
Dad of 2, 46, very romantic and full of life, enjoy wine/dining, looking for that special someone to share my life. Box 902417

IN YOUR EYES
Blond, blue-eyed male, 46, 5'8, enjoys socialising, cinema, live alone in Ashford, looking for a great lady for fun, friendship and more. Box 421664

PUPPY LOVE
Dog-loving guy, I've 47, 5'8, with short hair/green eyes, slim build, I love gardening, country walks, sports - football/tennis, DIY, animals. Box 428800

LET'S SEE WHERE IT GOES...
Gentle male, 46, 5'8, medium build, WLTm nice, attractive, friendly, build to with lady who likes going out and socialising, for friendship first. Box 442869

ALL THE FUL OF THE FAIR!
Well built, fun-loving, likes pubs, cinema, restaurants, theme parks, wlm female, 36-45, slim, for possible LTR. Cranbrook Box 737529

I AM HERE FOR YOU
6'1, 48, single dad, looking for fun friendship and relationship if you like what you hear then let me know. Box 900511

LET ME ENTERTAIN YOU
Busy business man, 50, medium build, enjoys cooking and eating out, with a female, 40-45, to wine, dine and entertain. Box 443282

READ THIS!
50yr old man, looking for black lady, 30-60, I like eating in and out, walks, music, cinema, having a laugh. Like what you read? Box 439507

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TO BE TOGETHER
Recently single male, 59, own house and business, looking for lady, 30-60, with GSOH, interested in walking and good times, for companionship. Box 443722

GAME ON
59, 5'15, brown hair, likes karaoke, eating out, walking, cooking, seeks tactile, honest woman for friendship and more. Box 434667

DOVER SOUL
Easygoing, fun male, 68yr old widower, GSOH, looking for a nice, bubbly female for friendship and maybe more together. Dover. Box 414847

Men seeking men

FUN TIMES
35yr old male, looking for fun with an attractive man. I'm good looking, with a slim/medium build. Box 437652

2 OF A KIND
Easygoing and laid-back male, 44yr old, medium build, 5'8, with a similar male for friendship and romance. Brighton. Box 442143

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CUTE SMILE
Tracey, 23, 5'12, green eyes, slim, laid-back, enjoys meals out, pubs and clubs, WLTm a similar female for a relationship. Box 443248

CANDLELIT CUDDELES!
40-year old gay woman, likes nice wine, candlelight, the sea, passionate people and places, muddy walks and cosy nights in, WLTm gay woman for friendship/relationship. Box 894541



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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Unfair VAT bills add extra costs to claim

CLAIMING back unfair VAT bills could become even more of a burden.

Under a proposed rule change, businesses are no longer entitled to claim costs at a tribunal, even if successful, according to leading accountancy firm Horwath Clark Whitehill.

Robert Warne, a partner at the firm, which has offices in Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells, said the change proposed by the Ministry of Justice will have a particularly severe impact on small and medium sized enterprises, which will be unwilling to invest time and money in the tribunal process if they cannot guarantee they will recoup the expense.

They often receive inaccurate assessments for relatively small amounts and in the past have appealed on the basis they would recover costs if successful.

A billion dollar read

A NEW book promises to have you gripped with the thrill of the biggest and most hard-fought takeover battle of recent years.

Cold Steel – Britain's richest man and the multi-billion-dollar battle for a global empire is written by journalist Tim Bouquet and leading international PR consultancy managing director Byron Ouse.

It tells the story of how Lakshmi Mittal, who grew up walking on bare floors and sleeping in rope beds and became the richest man in the UK, launched a bid for Luxembourg-based Arcelor, run by mercurial Frenchman Guy Dolle. Mittal eventually won, but the story in between is as gripping as any James Bond movie. Published by Little, Brown it's in hardback at £20.

For ladies what lunch

AN all-female networking lunch to raise funds for the Heart of Kent Hospice will take place later this month.

Professionally Pink is organised by Kent accountancy firm Horwath Clark Whitehill, in conjunction with Ansacom, Clydesdale Bank and Brachers.

It is aimed at women from regional local businesses and the next one takes place on Wednesday, September 10, at Souffle Restaurant in Bearsted, near Maidstone. Guest speaker is Caroline Brinkman, from the Heart of Kent Hospice.

Call 01622 767690 or e-mail emilyrush@horwath.co.uk

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EXPERT ADVICE: Ways to tackle the credit crunch. Search 'credit'.



HERE TO HELP: Bob Jones of Business Link urges small to medium companies to come up with a business plan to help them ride the economic storm and continue to grow

Feeling crunched? A plan could help you through

■ BY TONY PATEY

BUSINESS plans are the most vital blueprints for survival a firm can have – but one in every four companies in Kent doesn't have one, according to recent research.

Almost three-quarters of county firms – 72 per cent – believe a downturn in the UK economy would have a negative impact on their business, as one would expect, but 33 per cent of those don't have a business plan to help them ride out an economic storm.

That's the latest news from Business Link, which provides the information, advice and support businesses need to start, maintain and grow.

It also found that more than two thirds of small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) interviewed for its quarterly South East Business Monitor expect economic conditions in the UK to get worse over the next year.

With the housing market taking a hammering, construction companies understandably believe an economic downturn would have a

negative effect on their business – with a quarter saying it would have a strong negative impact – but the business and financial services sectors are less likely to believe that.

Business Link says only 62 per cent of those businesses – compared with 68 per cent across all industries – reckon their work would be hit hard by a downturn, possibly because they're focused on business-to-business markets and don't rely on the economic health of consumers.

Business Link's Bob Jones said: "Although not all businesses in Kent will be affected equally by the economic downturn, most are worried to some extent, so now is the time for them to take action."

"We work with more than 25,000 businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs across the county and our experience shows that growing companies are much more likely to take time out to plan for all eventualities. Those who plan should be better equipped to weather a storm."

"There are steps that can be taken to make battling a downturn in the economy that bit easier. Having a sound business plan in place is an excellent start and can allow companies to plan for various scenarios."

"You may need to think about improving cashflow, diversifying, exploring new markets, becoming more efficient, or focusing on your business's unique selling point (USP) such as the quality of your customer service."

"Even if you have a business plan, it is vital to review it. We have experienced advisers who can go through plans step-by-step – it's a free service, you really have nothing to lose."

Companies can take immediate action by making sure sound credit control systems are in place. The average small firm is owed £30,000 in unpaid invoices, with 29 per cent of businesses surveyed believing they would go bust if they were owed just £20,000.

Business Link has guides available and its Business Health Check to help companies analyse their finance and administration systems. Visit www.businesslink.gov.uk/south-east/creditchurn or call 0845 6009006.

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Lords need one more win to secure future

LORDSWOOD crept out of the relegation zone with one game remaining thanks to a ten-wicket victory against Sevenoaks Vine.

Matt Iles took 5-35 as Sevenoaks were bowled out for 144. Lordswood opener Chris Thompson hit an unbeaten 96 to set up a resounding win with more than 20 overs to spare.

They need another win on Saturday to secure their Premier Division status for next season.

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Olympic champion Jamie Staff reveals how he almost quit cycling in 2004

Youngster hits a stunning ton as Upchurch close in

MICHAEL Hales junior scored a sparkling century to keep Upchurch in the hunt for promotion to Division Two.

The youngster hit a superb 104 not out from 91 balls including 17 fours and two sixes.

The home side got off to a flyer with captain Dean Headley and Jim Phillips putting on 80 for the first wicket.

After they were both ousted by Peter Huntley, Hales junior and Lee Taylor (41) picked up the mantle, putting together a valuable century partnership to put their side firmly in the driving seat.

After Hales junior reached his century, Headley decided to declare with eight

CRICKET

BY GLENN PEARSON

overs to spare after seeing his side put together a total of 271-5.

The visitors bowled poorly, conceding 54 extras. Jared Bond bowled 14 wides in just two overs.

In response, Walmer were never allowed to get going as Upchurch's bowlers applied the squeeze.

Adam Hodder took 3-11 and Kevin Collis 2-20 to help blow the visitors away for a paltry 79 in 28 overs. Upchurch recorded a huge 192-run victory which keeps them second in Division Three. A win against Minster on Saturday will ensure Headley's side are promoted.



IN CONTROL: Upchurch took control with a determined display of batting

Kent League Division Three

Upchurch 1st XI v Walmer 1st XI

Upchurch

	Runs
Dean Headley b Huntley	39
Jim Phillips b Huntley	24
Lee Taylor b Huntley	41
Michael Hales jnr not out	104
Daniel Parker ct Huntley b Bond	0
Adam Hodder c & b Huntley	6
Michael Hales not out	3
Warren Little did not bat	
Kevin Collis did not bat	
Tim Mullis did not bat	
Andy Holmwood did not bat	
Extras (22b 4lb 26w 2nb)	54
Total (5 wickets dec, 42 overs)	271

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Barry Green	11	0	71	0
Tom Mitchell	6	0	42	0
Peter Huntley	15	8	31	4
Joe Wilcox	8	0	70	0
Jared Bond	2	0	31	1

Walmer

	Runs
Jared Bond ct Phillips b Parker	0
Peter Morris ct Headley b Collis	37
Andrew Grigg run out	10
Joe Wilcox ct Hales b Collis	6
Barry Green b Hodder	4
Peter Huntley lbw b Hodder	2
Tom Mitchell b Hodder	0
Philip Ginger not out	0
Trevor Bond run out	0
Extras (2b 1lb 12w 5nb)	20
Total (all out, 28 overs)	79

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Daniel Parker	0	1	6	1
Andy Holmwood	5	0	18	0
Michael Hales jnr	7	0	21	0
Kevin Collis	9	2	20	2
Adam Hodder	4	2	11	3

LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR

Old Colfeians CC 1st XI v Rainham CC 1st XI

A CENTURY from Callum Mitchell could not give Rainham victory at promoted Old Colfeians, with the visitors having to settle for a winning draw.

Put in to bat, Rainham lost Matt Goodwin for a duck but rallied through the impressive Mitchell and John Newton (58 not out).

Chasing a victory total of 225, Old Colfeians' progress was hampered by Matthew Newton, who took 5-46. It was not enough as Rainham came up three wickets short of a deserved victory, with the hosts finishing on 207-7 thanks to a partnership between Henry Cullum and Paul Rogers.

Rainham

	Runs
Matt Goodwin	0
Callum Mitchell	107
John Newton	58
Chris Small	0
James Austin	19
Nick Plumridge	25
John Dangerfield	0
James Sherhod	3
Phil Bellars	3
Jordan Shersby	0
Matthew Newton	0

Extras	(3b 4lb 2w)	9
Total	(7 wickets, 50 overs)	224

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Irfan Begg	10	3	35	1
Raphael Pendergast	12	3	30	0
Russell Humm	15	0	80	2
Richard Thornton	13	0	69	3

Old Colfeians

	Runs
Doug Gratton	8
Richard Harmer	87
Stephen Lee	36
Vinod Chinni	0
Mark Quilter	19
Richard Thornton	0
Irfan Begg	3
Henry Cullum	16
Paul Rogers	19
Raphael Pendergast	0
Russell Humm	0

Extras	(5b 4lb 8w 1nb)	18
Total	(7 wickets, 50 overs)	207

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Matthew Newton	14	0	46	5
Jordan Shersby	7	0	31	0
James Austin	4	0	32	0
James Sherhod	11	3	36	2
Chris Small	6	0	18	0
John Dangerfield	7	0	34	0

KENT FEEDER LEAGUE EAST 1A

Bobbing Court and Lower Halstow CC 1st XI v Blue Bell Hill CC 1st XI

BLUE Bell Hill's hopes of escaping relegation were boosted as they won a thrilling contest with Bobbing Court by a single run.

Defeat would have condemned Blue Bell Hill to 1B next season and it looked on the cards as they were bowled out for just 145. In reply, Bobbing Court made a good start as their openers both passed 30. Despite having wickets in hand, the hosts found scoring difficult against an accurate Blue Bell Hill attack.

Tom Highsted and James Underwood took three wickets apiece as Bobbing Court finished one run short.

Blue Bell Hill

	Runs
Jack Attridge	17
Roy Sams	4
Paul Brivio	22
Tom Highsted	14
Russell Booth	9
Leigh Short	7
Ian Hayward	23
Paul Fookes	5
Ben Highsted	22
James Underwood	10
Kevin Attridge	1

Extras	(5b 4lb 2w)	11
Total	(all out, 46 overs)	145

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Trevor Earl	8	2	24	2
Paul Bacon	7	0	19	0
Ian Linsell	12	3	21	3
Paul Dennington	12	2	30	1
Richard Gower	4	0	28	4
Dominic Soave	3	1	14	0

Bobbing Court and Lower Halstow

	Runs
Richard Gower	34
Adam Howard	39
Paul Fisher	16
Gary Ryan	4
Paul Dennington	24
Simon Bennett	0
Trevor Earl	2
Darren Millbanks	13
Paul Bacon	2
Dominic Soave	0
Ian Linsell	0

Extras	(5b 3lb 2w)	10
Total	(7 wickets, 46 overs)	144

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
James Underwood	12	1	58	3
Tom Highsted	11	2	23	3
Paul Fookes	7	2	19	0
Paul Brivio	7	2	9	1
Roy Sams	9	2	27	0

KENT FEEDER LEAGUE EAST 1B

Frindsbury CC 1st XI v Borstal CC 1st XI

FRINDSBURY kept their 100 per cent record intact to secure promotion with a straightforward six-wicket victory against Borstal.

After winning the toss, the home side put Borstal into bat. The visitors made a reasonable start but struggled to build any partnerships of substance and were all out for 134. John Reeves was the pick of Frindsbury's bowlers, taking 5-26. An opening stand of 61 between Dhaivat Mehta and David Peters put the hosts on course for victory. Despite losing Sam Dudgeon for a duck, Robert Sait and Dan Scudder guided Frindsbury home with ease.

Borstal

	Runs
Fred Tippet	3
Arsiad Hussain	27
Nick Francis	21
James Whitnell	2
Paul Davies	7
Simon Harding	42
Daniel Tingley	4
Mark Stevens	2
Adam Mahomed	1
Max Woolgar	6
Dean Knights	0

Extras	(2b 3lb 11w 3nb)	19
Total	(all out, 41.4 overs)	134

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
John Reeves	8.3	2	26	5
Chris Mumford	9	3	20	1
Sam Dudgeon	12	4	22	2
Samuel Gracey	10	2	43	2
Peter Elwood	2	0	18	0

Frindsbury

	Runs
Dhaivat Mehta	47
David Peters	14
Sam Dudgeon	0
Robert Sait	35
Ian Budd	14
Dan Scudder	6
Samuel Gracey	0
Dan Reeves	0
Chris Mumford	0
Peter Elwood	0
John Reeves	0

Extras	(12b 2lb 7w 1nb)	22
Total	(4 wickets, 31.2 overs)	138

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Mark Stevens	75	2	19	0
Max Woolgar	5	0	35	0
Arsiad Hussain	9	1	41	1
Adam Mahomed	6	2	11	2
Dean Knights	4	1	18	1

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER 2ND XI

Sevenoaks Vine CC 2nd XI v Lordswood CC 2nd XI

LORDSWOOD 2nd XI go into this weekend's final round of games still not safe from relegation after being outplayed in a 116-run defeat at Sevenoaks Vine 2nd XI.

The hosts were put into bat first and posted a competitive 236-5 from their 50 overs, with Chris Hammond hitting an excellent 78. Lordswood could not replicate their opponents' form and were all out for 120, with only two players making it past 20.

They are seven points clear of the bottom two, but need a win on Saturday to guarantee their Premier Division Status.

Sevenoaks Vine

	Runs
Duncan Irens	0
Chris Hammond	78
Alex Cooper	49
Charlie Makepeace	35
Alexander Howson	5
Timothy Shaw	21
James Greenidge	21
John Greenidge	0
Ed Goodworth	0
Leo Harris	0
Maurice Holmes	0

Extras	(2b 3lb 4w 1nb)	10
Total	(5 wickets, 50 overs)	236

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Matthew Tunge	11	2	66	2
John Williams	3	0	18	0
Richard Cross	15	1	49	1
Matt Greenwood	6	1	29	0
Philip Mayes	15	0	69	1

Lordswood

	Runs
Lyndon Lockhart	1
Danny Moor	0
Neil Fairclough	5
Matt Greenwood	10
Laurence Frost	9
James Gillilan	13
Andrew Shirley	26
Philip Mayes	0
Matthew Tunge	0
John Williams	24
Richard Cross	2

Extras	(5b 13lb 5w 7nb)	30
Total	(all out, 34.2 overs)	120

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Timothy Shaw	11.2	1	46	5
John Greenidge	8	1	18	1
Ed Goodworth	2	0	6	0
Leo Harris	6	1	18	3
Maurice Holmes	7	1	14	1

Oli nets Gills' first goal at Priestfield

FOOTBALL

BY GLENN PEARSON

Gillingham 1 Accrington Stanley 0

IF there has been a more dominant 1-0 win I am yet to see it.

The Gills had chance after chance and it looked for all the world as if Mark Stimson's side were going to have to wait another week to record their first goal and first win at Priestfield this season.

Then up popped Dennis Oli with a scuffed shot – probably the worst effort all afternoon – and the points were Gillingham's.

Spare a thought for goalkeeper Kenny Arthur though, who did his best to thwart Gillingham at every opportunity. The Accrington stopper went into the game without having conceded a goal in the league and he wasn't prepared to be beaten.

In the first half he twice saved from Simeon Jackson, while Mark McCammon headed over from a corner and Garry Richards' effort had to be cleared off the line.

Whatever Mark Stimson said at half-time clearly had the desired effect as his side came out with renewed vigour and bombarded the Accrington goal. Central to this was Curtis Weston, fresh from signing a permanent two-year deal with the club, who put in an accomplished performance in central midfield.

However, it was probably the introduction of Gary Mulligan who changed the game as the



JUBILATION: Dennis Oli celebrates Gillingham's first goal at home this season in front of the fans at the Rainham End

Gills got closer to opening their account at home. The striker thought he'd broken the deadlock when he fired a short into the net from the edge of the box, but the goal was ruled out because of an infringement.

Arthur made the save of the game to deny Mulligan's 69th minute header that was bound for the top corner.

However, the Stanley stopper could do nothing

to deny Oli scrambling in Charlie Daniels' left wing cross and earning Gillingham their first win at home.

Assistant boss Scott Barrett said: "It was one of those games that we have seen already this season where we created chance after chance and it seemed as though it wasn't going to be our day. We dominated and it is credit to the boys for playing right down to the wire."

Picture KNP



Picture ADY KERRY

IN THE RUNS: Kent vice-captain Martin van Jaarsveld

Kent still in the hunt for double glory

CRICKET

KENT go into tomorrow's clash with Surrey still in with a chance of winning the County Championship.

Rob Key's side played out a thrilling draw with Yorkshire last week, a game in which Kent came back from the dead and almost claimed what seemed an unlikely victory.

The draw has left them third in Division One of the Championship, nine points behind leaders Nottinghamshire.

Key was without the services of vital all-rounders Yasir Arafat, Azhar Mahmood and Justin Kemp for the game at Scarborough, but hopes to have them back for Thursday's visit of Surrey to St Lawrence.

Martin van Jaarsveld was the rock of the first innings after he scored 107 of a disappointing total of 227. A sparkling 146 from Jacques Rudolph helped the Tykes, together with half centuries from Anthony McGrath and Adam Lyth, to 457 and a lead of 230. Neil Dexter held the Kent second innings together with 105, but a partnership between James Tredwell and Ryan McLaren helped them to 433.

Robbie Joseph claimed the prize wicket of former England captain Michael Vaughan for a 14-ball duck as Yorkshire struggled against a rampant Kent bowling attack.

When skipper Darren Gough departed with the score on 166-9, Kent and Key would have fancied their chances of claiming a famous victory, but former England seamer Matthew Hoggard and Deon Kruis managed to keep out the remaining 28 balls to deny the visitors the win.

While Key's side continue to do well in the Championship, they are also close to gaining promotion to Division One in the Pro40 competition. Rain ruined their game at Northampton on Monday, but a win against Surrey at the Oval yesterday could have seen them climb to second spot.

Avery's late leveller sparks angry scenes

FOOTBALL

Chatham Town 2 Dorking 2

RICHARD Avery scored a last minute equaliser to end Chatham Town's losing run and keep them in the FA Cup.

Despite controlling the game, the Chats looked to be heading for a fourth successive defeat until Avery's late goal. It was the second time they pegged Dorking back after Dave Botterill's header just after half-time.

Chats boss Steve Binks was pleased with his side's attitude and felt a draw was the least they deserved.

He said: "I was delighted with the response of the players. They are getting some really bad kicks in the teeth at the moment but they have showed great character and resilience."

After having a goal disallowed in the first minute, Chats' problems grew as Dorking took the lead with their first attack of the match in the tenth minute.

The home side's dominance was finally rewarded when Botterill headed home Tom Binks' cross a minute after the restart. They were unable to



YOUNG GUN: Michael Scott (left), 16, was impressive against Dorking

build on the goal and Dorking moved ahead with a counter-attack.

Avery's last minute strike earned a draw, but the Chats captain was booked for an over enthusiastic celebration, provoking a reaction from the Dorking goalkeeper, who was sent off for punching the defender.

The draw set up a replay in Surrey last night, with the winners progressing to a potential First Round tie against Herne Bay. For a report and reaction from the game, visit www.yourmedway.co.uk.

Town face Northwood next.

Picture: ADRIAN LINE

Accreditation is a mark of achievement for club

RUGBY

MEDWAY Rugby Club were recognised for years of work in the community by receiving two awards last week.

The club was given the Rugby Football Union's Seal of Approval at Twickenham, an honour which came with Sport England's Clubmark accreditation.

The prestigious titles acknowledge the club has attained the highest standards in providing a safe, child-friendly environment for youngsters to learn the game. They are the first rugby club in Medway to receive the awards.

The club's Clubmark Officer Trevor Jefferies said: "A substantial amount of work has gone into getting clubmark, but we won't be resting on our laurels, we still have a lot of work to do each season to maintain and hopefully upgrade our status."

Working in partnership with Medway Council's sports development unit, the club have set up a variety of initiatives to help encourage youth rugby in the area.

"These include organising tag rugby leagues in schools and sup-



Picture: ALAN BOURNE

SUCCESS: Medway are the first club in the area to achieve Clubmark status

porting teachers to develop their own coaching skills.

Sarah Dand, sports development officer at Medway Council, said: "The club have been working tirelessly on enhancing and increasing their junior development programme over the past two years and continue to do so."

"I have seen the club grow in terms of their development and I am delighted it has proven to be a determined, well-managed club with the drive that enabled them to achieve accreditation."

The senior men's first XV begin their Kent 1 campaign at home to Old Olavians on Saturday, September 13.

SEND YOUR STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk

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Mark Stimson explains the role of new first team coach Mark Robson

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